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# Historic Sites in the Colstrip to Hot Springs Transmission Line Study Area

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JULY, 1974

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Transmission Line Study Area

Prepared for the Bureau of Land Management

By: Western Interpretive Services  
P.O. Box 6467  
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801

July 31, 1974

## Introduction

This study covers historic sites within the assigned study area, as defined by a map supplied as a part of our contract. In the preparation of our staff for the field studies, we assembled a comprehensive list of historic sites in the study area by bringing together the list of sites in the area that are on the National Register of Historic Places, the State Historic Sites Inventory, and then, based upon our own research in the history of the area, adding a number of sites that seemed to be potentially worth further study.

We developed a research file for all sites in our checklist and preliminary mapping for use by our field team. Our individual field workers did supplementary research in major centers in their respective areas. We provided additional data as required by individual problems from our own extensive collections. We interviewed local informants and interested parties where it seemed desirable to do so, but most of our field time was expanded in the location and examination of sites.

Our evaluation of significance of historic sites is based on the criteria set forth in the latest instructions for the National Register program. We have used these criteria because they constitute the most relevant set of criteria for an environmental impact study. This is due to the fact that sites that are on the National Register are given special protection from impact under Title 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The protection extends broadly to sites in federal ownership, and extends potentially to sites in private ownership, providing protection against adverse action by federally licensed or federally financed projects, if the private landowner concurs in nominating the site for the National Register.

National Register protection extends to sites over 50 years old, though there are special cases in which National Register listing has been extended to newer sites of special significance or particular architectural merit.

Our basic method of site inventory and significance assignment for a given region is as follows: We review the history of the region, to establish a basic framework of significant events. Then we seek to establish the locations at which these events occurred, as well as locations associated with important personages for each period involved. Then we endeavor to determine the degree to which the sites or buildings involved have survived,



and the degree to which they possess integrity of structure and of setting. Rural Montana possesses few buildings that are the work of a notable architect, so structures without other historic associations are deemed to be significant in architectural history only if they are particularly unique or else particularly representative of an architectural type rare in the region involved.

The terms of our instructions were so phrased as to specifically exclude sites and buildings that lay within the confines of the major urban areas in the study area since line locations would either avoid these areas or would traverse existing corridors within them. Similarly, sites in major parks and wilderness areas have been excluded since these areas will be avoided for other reasons.

The study area for this project includes several of the main corridors of development in the State. Some of these have seen a century or more of fairly intensive settlement and development activity. Development has been sufficiently intense that few sites from the early periods have survived with any important degree of structural integrity or integrity of historic setting. This fact enhances appreciably the importance of the major surviving sites in the study area.

The pace of recent development activity in Montana is shown by the fact that some state inventory sites that have already been overrun by various kinds of development activity, ranging from mining to simple expansion of urban areas and expanded farming operations. Clearly, powerlines pose a relatively limited danger to the really important sites which can be readily ameliorated by adequate planning such as the project of which this study is a part.

In many cases our own field reconnaissance constitutes the only up-to-date record of site condition. The State Inventory was too limited in budget to permit an adequate reconnaissance of all properties listed in it, and eight years of development in the state since that inventory has overrun a number of the sites that were listed, leaving historic "locales" rather than sites. Such historic locales may be effective enough candidates for roadside historical interpretive markers, but in many cases there was little, if anything, to mark the site or to be a matter of concern for historic preservation even at the time the inventory was compiled.

We have analyzed and commented upon the nature of transmission-line impact on historic sites.

We have developed a section of our report devoted to each major period of historic development in the study area. Within each section, we introduce the general history of the period for the study area. Then, we turn to the individual sites related to the period, dealing with the more critically sensitive sites first, and proceeding through those of lesser importance or sensitivity.

### The Nature of Transmission Line Impact on Historic Sites

The primary danger to a historic site from this source lies, of course, in the impact of construction activity. Transmission towers can perhaps be located so as not to disturb a given site of limited acreage directly themselves. The most destructive element in the direct sense is the road necessary for construction of the line, and for its subsequent service and maintenance. This road, we presume, will be in essence a four-wheel-drive vehicular trail, but the large volume of traffic on it during the construction activity will make it a danger to any substantial site it crosses.

For sites in which public ownership, or public development is possible, but is some years away, there is a secondary danger. This is the increased access to otherwise inaccessible back-country sites offered by the powerline trail. We believe that this will increase relic-hunter access to the sites to the degree that it may constitute the main danger. This is doubtless a greater danger to archeological sites than to historic sites, but none-the-less it will affect both.

There are several basic types of impact situations:

First, let us consider the case of a site located in a relatively undisturbed natural setting. This might be an extensive complex of buildings, perhaps only a single building or ruin, or in so many cases in Montana and the rest of the West, merely a site where some important event took place. In the case of such a site, we would say that one of the most important visitor experiences is the opportunity to be able to recreate the mental image of the events in their own time, with the aid of the relatively undisturbed historic scene. The serious history buff can and will attempt to do this at an undeveloped site. The casual traveler will do so with various kinds of interpretive assistance, which itself must be carefully planned to aid understanding with minimal intrusion. At such a site, the visual impact of a major intrusion, or anachronism, such as a power line will be viewed by most visitors, and certainly by most planners as a very disturbing factor. The farther one can stay away from such sites with a power line, the better, in terms of both net effect on the visitor, and in terms of maintenance of a good public image for the power company.

Secondly, let us examine the case of those sites in which continued development of the region's economy has brought extensive change in the setting. This might be a long continued history of development and construction, as in the case of the setting of many historic buildings within towns. It might be, in a place like Montana, a situation where developments in the mining industry have changed much of the landscape that is in view from a given site. While the site of a building itself may be relatively well-preserved, a single period-piece, as it were, it probably has within view a number of other sites and developments that represent the work of other periods down to that of the present - for example, a modern mine, mill and smelter complex within view of a ghost town or other similar site. We believe that in a setting of this kind the impact of an added modern development may be an entirely different thing than it would in the first case outlined above. Here the elements of the scene represent a historic continuum, rather than a single point in time. If we were to undertake the planning for a public visitor services development of any kind, from a roadside marker to a major visitor center, we would want to interpret the special historic site or building in such a way as to show how it fit into the continuing story of the development of the region, including the modern industrial activities nearby. In such a setting, a power line that did not actually overrun the site or building would not be nearly as intrusive, and in such a situation we would probably use it as an opportunity to interrelate the history of mining with the regional history of the production and distribution of power.

In a possible third case that may involve some kinds of historic or archeological properties, or other cultural properties such as parks and natural areas, the maintenance of a minimum of additional intrusive scenic elements is desirable. At such cultural properties the development of transmission lines will be best kept at a sufficient distance to be "beneath the effective visual horizon." At natural areas thereis, of course, likely to be even more public concern than at the other kinds of parks, museums, visitor centers, etc.

Power lines of the size and design characteristics such as that under consideration here, (c. 373 KV), would in most cases have no visual impact at distances greater than two miles on flat terrain. In finalizing line locations this general criterion should be adhered to for the line overall,

in most cases keeping the line two miles or more from a major or developable historic site. Topography of course must be considered, since a line traversing an open slope elevated above the site might be intrusive at greater distances, while on the other hand it is often possible to conceal a line effectively at very short distances if the terrain is rough enough to permit "keeping the line behind a hill" as viewed from the site in question. Since this study does not address itself to analysis of specific construction centerlines, this level of site-by-site locational evaluation will have to wait until alternative specific lines are brought up for study.

During the course of our study, we have encountered several variants of these cases which we shall examine on a site-by-site basis.

### Indian Sites

By the early 17th Century, European settlements, by the Spanish in the southwest, by the French along the St. Lawrence waterways, and by the British and others on the Atlantic Seaboard, had begun to disturb and displace tribes in their immediate vicinity, and set in motion a series of sequential shifts in tribal balances of power that did not end until the late 19th century. The introduction of trade goods from these centers of European settlement changed the material culture of each tribe they reached, and together acted to modify the Indians' way of life at an accelerating pace. The first impact of this upon Montana appears to have come at about A.D. 1720-1740. By this date, the Shoshoni (Snakes) had upgraded their simple pedestrian hunting and gathering economy after acquiring horses from the southwest, along with steel edged weapons and various metal tools. Temporarily more mobile and better armed than their neighbors, they dominated the area of most of the southeastern half of Montana for from 30 to 50 years. They were the first of Montana's Indians to become equestrian hunters. Trade goods filtering in from the Great Lakes country and from around Hudson's Bay soon changed this situation, however, for the Blackfoot Tribes, the Atsina, the Arapaho, the Crows and the Cheyennes (followed at length by the Sioux, or rather pressed by the Sioux and the Cree), invaded the Shoshoni lands armed with British and French trade guns, as well as steel tools and weapons. These newcomers to the plains soon acquired the horse, and swept the Shoshoni from the plains, and also drove the Flatheads and Kutenai across the Northern Rockies. For most of the tribes mentioned, the transition from an agrarian, sedentary life to a mobile, equestrian "buffalo hunter" culture took place to the east or northeast of Montana's borders. The Crows, however, made this transition at least partially in the Yellowstone valley.

The Crow Indians arrived early enough and stayed long enough in southern Montana to assign traditional importance to several locales. Some of these are in the Pryor vicinity, and are landmarks within view of Plenty Coups Park. Their interpretation is envisioned within the plan for that park, and we do not propose separate listings for them. Another significant group of three sites of this type lie within the Billings urban area. These are:

Place-of-the-Skulls (Skeleton Cliff), SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 27,

T. 1 N., R. 26 E., in the eastern end of Billings steep rimrocks. Most of the area is city and county owned, and the balance is being considered for acquisition under a park and open space lands study now under way. This cliff was traditionally a place of interest for many victims of the 1837 smallpox epidemic among the Crows.

"Where-the-white-horse-went-down", SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 27, T. 1 N., R. 26 E. This is the detached segment of rimrock forming an imposing butte behind the fairgrounds just east of Billings. It relates to an incident in the 1837 small pox epidemic in which two young men resolved to leap to their death from the butte to propitiate the spirits causing the epidemic.

"Sacrifice Cliff", in the E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 2, T. 1 S, R. 26 E. is also related to the epidemic, and is reputed to be a point from which many Crow victims of smallpox leaped to end their desperate suffering.

All these sites lie within the Billings urban area, and "Where-the-white-horse-went-down" has recently been destroyed by construction activity.

The contacts of missionaries and with the army in the historic period will be considered in later portions of this report, as will the trading posts that so drastically altered the Indian economy.

Early relations between the tribes and the government are well-documented in the records of treaty conferences and the correspondence of the Office of Indian Affairs.

Treaties of broad impact and considerable significance were negotiated at several points in Montana. First was the treaty negotiated by Governor Isaac Stevens of Washington Territory on October 16-17, 1855. Stevens met with representatives of the Blackfoot Tribes, the Atsina, the Flatheads, Pend d'Oreilles, and Nez Percés, on a bottomland just below and across from the mouth of the Judith River (Sec. 24, T. 23 N., R. 16 E., & Sec. 19, T. 23 N., R. 17 E.). This treaty set up the framework of government relations with these tribes for many years to come.

The continuing complex relationship between the Indian tribes and the United States government is principally focused at the agencies established for this purpose. In

many ways, the reservations are differentiated from non-reservation Montana in a legal sense. Some of the enrolled Indians are still treated in a sort of "extraterritorial" status while within their reservation, especially in regard to taxation, and accessibility to civil process. We believe thus that the agencies have a past and a continuing national significance as well as a state significance.

In addition to the agencies, the missions established by various church denominations have had a marked influence in the acculturation of the various tribes.



Stevensville/St. Mary's Mission/Fort Owen:

Fort Owen was one of the major trading posts in the later days of the fur trade here. St. Mary's Mission became one of the major missions in the region, following its establishment here. All told this is an area where the continuity of historical story and the parallel continuity of the physical remains of these sites and buildings make a very interesting community.

Location: T. 9 N., R. 20 W.

Description:

Fort Owen: Two miles west of town, on working ranch property. Portion of "adobe" structures remain. East side foundations of blockhouses and walls excavated. But not stabilized. Protected by ranch owners and state. Interior has token refurnishing. In good condition.

St. Marys: Original building in good condition. Protected by local historical society. Adjacent to modern Catholic church, on west side of town. Combination log and frame. Closed and could not examine interior.

Chief Charlo's Cabin: Log, good condition, behind church.

Pharmacy: Next to church. Closed, too.

Cemetery and Grave of Father Ravalli: West and behind church.

Town itself has many old buildings and a number of fine old victorian structures. Along road to Corvallis.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

The prospects for effective preservation here seem excellent if only moderate supplemental funding from state and federal sources becomes available.

Transmission Line Impact:

A major transmission line would have serious visual impact on this group of historic sites and buildings. We recommend that such a line be kept outside the visual horizon of this area.

References:

de Smet, Fr. P.J. Western Missions and Missionaries, New York, 1863.

St. Ignatius and the Mission Valley:

. Site of one of the early (1854) missions to the Flathead Indians, town has grown up around the mission settlement.

Location: T. 18 N., R. 19 W.

Description:

St. Ignatius: Church - brick, 1890's, in use, well maintained. Additional brick structures across street to south. Appear to be of 1900's-1920's. Seem to have been school, possibly a dormitory, etc. Rectory and convent may be here too. Time was limited, so did not take detailed look at community structures. Overall impression is that most are of early to present 20th century. Log building used by early missionaries preserved.

The Mission Valley: This lovely valley, with its amazingly beautiful mountain range, has its imprint on modern "improvements", such as its highway, the joining dirt access roads to ranches and forests, modern homes here, there, etc. But its beauty is still evident.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Modernization has proceeded slowly here, and this is a well-preserved community, with good prospects for additional work with modest amounts of outside funding.

Transmission Line Impact:

A major line here would be quite intrusive, and we recommend that it stay well away from St. Ignatius in crossing the valley if it is necessary to do so.

References:

de Smet, Fr. P.J. Western Missions and Missionaries.  
New York, 1863.

Crow Agency #1:

This was the first regular agency for the Crows, serving in this capacity from 1869-1876. Sometimes called "Fort Parker", it was an imposing stockaded post.

Location: S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 29, T. 1 S., R. 11 E.

Description:

During its seven year occupancy, there was considerable building and rebuilding at this site and the fortified compound burned in a fire. Despite this, the site presents sufficient surface evidence to make archeological work efficient. The tract is immediately adjacent to a private road on the Mission Creek Ranch.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

The site is not far from the Shields River interchange on I-94, and access could easily be developed. A good archeological project on site might reveal much about the structural history of the agency as well as data on trade with the Crows at this important point. If sufficient land were available the setting is appropriate for a good historical park.

Transmission Line Impact:

Most intrusive development in this immediate region is confined to a narrow strip along the Yellowstone River's south bank, between the railway and Interstate 94. A transmission line on the terraces south of the valley at this point would make a considerable intrusion at this historic spot. The view across the river at this point is a choice one, easily subject to disruption by a large transmission line.

References:

Topping, E.S. (R.A. Murray, ed.). Chronicles of the Yellowstone, Ross and Haines, Minneapolis, 1968.

Whithorn, Bill and Doris. Photo History of Shields Valley, Pray, Montana, n.d.

St. Xavier Mission:

This Roman Catholic mission to the Crow Indians has been in continuous operation since 1886, only three years after the Crows began to move to this area. It has had a substantial cultural influence on the Crows of this portion of the reservation.

Location: within the unincorporated community of St. Xavier.

Description:

The Mission as it stands today includes a full range of buildings from some of the earliest to some very modern school and church buildings. The original 1886 Mission church is still standing and maintained in good condition. Immediately adjacent is a set of quarters that appears to be of about the same date.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Buildings are being used for original uses, are well preserved and are in the case of the church, available for public visitation on request to the staff.

Transmission Line Impact:

The community here is so small the approach of a major transmission line within its immediate visual horizon would constitute a substantial intrusion on this historic mission.

References:

clipping files, Montana Room, Billings Public Library

Tongue River Agency:

Since its establishment in 1884, this agency at the town of Lame Deer has been the prime point of official communication between the U.S. government and the Northern Cheyenne Indians. None of the original agency buildings remain here, but two structures of significance do remain from the period c. 1900, a brick office building (now used as a mental health center) and a brick government employee quarters (now used as a senior citizens center).

Location: Sec. 33-34 T. 2 S., R. 41 E.

Description:

Both of these buildings are of brick construction, little changed from their original appearance except in surface aspects such as paint. Both are situated in the same block on a tract of land that has not been overrun by the modernization that has swept over Lame Deer within the past several years.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Both structures are now in viable adaptive use and will probably remain so for some years to come.

Transmission Line Impact:

Lame Deer occupies a scenic setting with a number of other historic sites in the immediate vicinity. Even though much of the recent upgrading of housing and other buildings in the community by the Cheyennes has materially changed the appearance of the community, we feel that a major transmission line should avoid the community and its surrounding sites to the extent of staying out of sight through location and terrain screening.

References:

- Pringle, Robert. "The Northern Cheyenne Indians in the Reservation Period," unpublished honors theses, Harvard College, 1958.
- Liberty, Margot, "Suppression and Survival of the Northern Cheyenne Sun Dance," Minnesota Archeologist, vol. 17, (1965), pp. 120-143.

Crow Agency III:

In 1883, the federal government moved its agency for the Crows to this site from an earlier site on the Rosebud Fork of Stillwater River. Since that time it has served as the main point of contact between the federal government and the Crow Tribe.

Location: The unincorporated community of Crow Agency, immediately adjacent Interstate 90, 13 miles s.e. of Hardin, Montana.

Description:

Central portion of the community contains a number of buildings dating from the 1890's, including some government employee housing, a central steam power plant, a now-abandoned flour mill, and a few other federally owned structures. Agency office buildings are of later date. Other structures of interest are the Richardson-Small store, virtually unchanged structurally from its turn of the century appearance, and a Baptist Mission dating from the same period. The U.S. Public Health Service maintains a regional pharmaceutical center and a Division of Indian Health hospital here. The chief surgeon's quarters and the nurses residence and the west wing of the hospital are attractive structures of 1920's construction. Much new housing has been built by the federal agencies and by the Crows themselves to the northwest of the old town, adding modern suburban clutter to the view. The site of the 1887 Sword-Bearer Incident has been overrun with this more recent construction.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

The buildings in active use are well-preserved, but we doubt there will be much effort to save them from being replaced by newer structures in view of the increasing wealth of the Crows individually and collectively as a result of coal and other resource developments on the reservation.

Transmission Line Impact:

The pace of modern development and the changes in the community wrought by the Interstate highway, and developments in new office buildings and housing over the past ten years, would make any transmission line impact here

moderate at most.

References:

Clipping files, Montana Room, Billings Public Library and  
local informants.

Early Trading Post and Beef Issue Point for Cheyennes:

• This was probably the first official point of contact between the Cheyennes and the government on the present reservation, before a regular agency was established. Beef issues (on the hoof) were made at a corral of the trading post.

Location: S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 26, T. 2 S., R. 40 E.

Description:

No surviving descriptions of the post itself are known. We presume it consisted of the usual cabins and corrals. Setting is largely undisturbed land along the creek and not overrun by later development.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

This site has limited development potential, but would unquestionably be of interest to archeologists for its representation of a unique period in reservation history.

Transmission Line Impact:

Were a transmission line located in this area, particular care should be taken to secure adequate archeology on this site in advance of construction.

References:

Grinnell, George B. The Fighting Cheyennes, Oklahoma University Press, Norman, 1956.

Stands-in-Timber, John, and Liberty, Margot, Cheyenne Memories, Yale University Press, 1967.



Crow Agency II:

From 1876 to 1884, this site served as the main point of contact between the Crow Indians and the U.S. government. There was an extensive complex of agency buildings on this site. From here the agency was moved to its present location in 1884.

Location: Sec. 13 and 24, T. 4 S., R. 18 E.

Description:

This site lies on a fairly level terrace along the Rosebud Fork of Stillwater River. None of the buildings survive. Most of the site has been plowed and devoted to irrigated farming, minimizing its value as an archeological site. There is a historical marker along the road nearby, and the agency cemetery still exists in a fair state of preservation.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

In view of the use of the land for farming for many years, we doubt that there would ever be more than an expansion of the current roadside development here.

Transmission Line Impact:

Impact of such a line here would be moderate in view of limited development prospects. Additionally, the valley in this area is steadily being subdivided into second-homesites and small rural residence properties, further changing the historic setting.

References:

Topping, E.S., (R.A. Murray, ed.). Chronicles of the Yellowstone, Ross and Haines, Minneapolis, 1968.

St. Labre Mission:

This mission is the oldest such facility on the Northern Cheyenne country, dating from 1887. It has had a substantial historic influence on the tribe for this entire period.

Location: Sec. 3, T. 3 S., R. 44 E.

Description:

Remodeling, rebuilding, and several virtually complete reconstructions have eliminated all of the early buildings at this mission, so there are no historic buildings left to preserve.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

There is good photographic evidence of what the early buildings were like here, so it would be relatively easy for the Church to create an effective exhibit on the history of the mission.

Transmission Line Impact:

A major line within the visual horizon would not constitute an impact on the historic resources in significant terms, since the scene has changed so very much here from its early appearance.

References:

Dusenberry, Verne. "The Northern Cheyenne", Montana Magazine, Vol. 5 (Winter, 1955), pp. 23-40.

Brown, Mark H., and Felton, W.R., The Frontier Years, Bonanza, New York, 1955.

"Indian Birney" District:

This little settlement as an Indian community dates largely from the regrouping of the Cheyennes that occurred at the time most of the Cheyenne men were enrolled in CCC Camps in the mid-1930's. It does, however, contain an abandoned school building and an abandoned church that are of considerably older vintage, as well as an active Mennonite Mission, all of which could easily qualify as National Register Nominations. A high butte across Tongue River is an important fasting-place for reservation period Cheyenne traditionalists and worshipers.

Location: Sec. 7, T. 5 S., R. 43 E. Note: this locale should not be confused with the white community of Birney, located a few miles to the south and mapped as the community of that name.

Description:

The historic buildings here are located within a loosely strung community of housing ranging from the 1930's to the present. They are not so badly crowded by the newer development as the historic tracts at Lame Deer.

Development Potential and Prospect:

There has been extensive vandalism at the abandoned school and church, and we would expect this to continue. The Mennonite Mission is in active use and in good shape.

Transmission Line Tract:

A major line would constitute a considerable visual intrusion here, but the topography would permit the line to pass the community with good visual screening if a line were ever run in this direction.

References:

Stands-in-Timber, John, and Liberty, Margot. Cheyenne Memories, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1967.

Flathead Agency:

Since the 1880's this has been the major governmental contact point with the Confederated Flathead tribes, and as such it possesses considerable historic significance.

Location: T. 18 N., R. 21 W.

Description:

Located on east bank of Flathead River, atop bluffs. Structures, (mostly of frame and siding), appear to be of c. 1920's. Arranged in customary para-military locations, around a couple of "parade grounds", with warehouses and similar service structures on outermost sides, behind residences. All in use. Fair maintenance. Some newer structures on site, too. Cemetery atop hill, 500 yards to south, east side of road.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

The absence of any early historic structures limits the level of development here. There are no known plans for historical development at this agency.

Transmission Line Impact:

Recent date of the structures involved, along with the existing of one major transmission line within view from the property leads us to say that the impact of an additional line within view would be at the most moderate, and perhaps minimal, depending on exact line location.

References:

Bancroft, H.H. History of Washington, Idaho, and Montana, San Francisco, 1899.

Blackfoot Agency (1858):

. This site is the agency mapped by Mullan in 1858-59. Local informants confirm this location.

Location: Sec. 27, T. 21 N., R. 1 W.

Description:

Site has been intensively farmed and there is now no physical evidence of the structures visible on the ground.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

There is very little prospect for development here other than perhaps a roadside marker.

Transmission Line Impact:

Impact of a line here would be minimal. If a line were to cross the site some test archeology would of course be in order.

References:

Mullan, John, maps (copies from National Archives in the Montana Historical Society Library).

St. Peters Mission:

This was a pioneer Roman Catholic mission to the Blackfeet, established in 1861 to replace an earlier location nearer the agency, and abandoned in 1866.

Location: Sec. 18, T. 18 N., R. 2 W.

Description:

The site was inaccessible during the period of our field work, so we are unable to supply a detailed description of existing conditions there. Site has been used more recently as well as the early occupancy and informants mention the following buildings: A church of more recent construction than the mission; a log building locally called "the opera house"; and the ruins of an early structure that probably represents the early mission here.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

It is impossible to accurately assess the full development potential here with a field reconnaissance. The site is remote and off the main stream of tourist movement in the area so it seems unlikely that it would be developed in the near or early future.

Transmission Line Impact:

In view of the importance of this site in the early history of the Blackfeet, we recommend that any major power line here stay out of visual contact with the site.

References:

Hamilton, James H. From Wilderness to Statehood, Binsford, Mort and Co., Portland, 1956.

Ewers, John G. The Blackfeet, University of Oklahoma Press, 1955.

Blackfoot Agency II (1869-1874):

This agency was the main contact between the government and the Blackfeet at what was perhaps the most critical period of their relationship to the traders, the settlers and the army.

Location: NE.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 10, T. 24 N., R. 5 W.

Description:

There is not much surface evidence at this site. Site is marked by a roadside marker, with supplemental signs at the cemetery and other points.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

We would not foresee a much higher level of development than at present for this site. It holds some prospect for a worthwhile archeological project.

Transmission Line Impact:

Visual impact of such a line would be at least moderate here. We would recommend keeping the line outside the visual horizon of this site if possible.

References:

Ewers, John C. The Blackfeet, Oklahoma University Press, 1955.

Ege, Robert. "Tell Baker to Strike Them Hard," Old Army Press, Fort Collins, Colorado, 1971.

Lewis and Clark Sites:

In stark contrast to the thinly researched prehistory and history of the Indian, Lewis and Clark enter upon the Montana scene as the first well-documented visitors from the United States and proceed from this good beginning to their present status as perhaps the two most-written-about explorers. Some of the sites associated with the Expedition are locatable with reasonable accuracy from data in their journals, most can be located as a locale rather than a precise site, and virtually all of those in Montana have been mapped by careful scholars as closely as the situation and the available data would allow.

The following sites within the study area have been entered on the National Register:

Great Falls Portage  
Three Forks of the Missouri  
Traveler's Rest  
Lolo Trail  
Pompey's Pillar  
Beaverhead Rock

We have mapped their other camp sites in the study area based on the best data we could find.

It is important to recognize that a site associated with the swift passage of a small party such as this may leave a much less identifiable site than those of some of the military expeditions whose camps covered acres, and who might lose or discard almost as much at one camp as the Lewis and Clark expedition carried along!

In general where the terrain has not suffered major alteration, we would suggest that a major transmission line be kept out of view of any of the campsites mapped. The great national interest in the Expedition makes these sites though poorly defined, a particularly sensitive kind of site.

References:

Nicholas Biddle (ed.). Journals of the Expedition....  
Heritage Press, New York, 1960.



Travelers Rest Site:

This site is in the locale of one of the major Lewis and Clark Expedition camp sites, in a vicinity where existing highways follow some portions of the explorers trail.

Location: T. 12 N., R. 19 W.

Description:

The site immediately involved here is a tract owned by Montana Fish and Game Commission for fishing access. It is an attractive streamside tract within easy reach of the highway. There is no evidence nor any attempt to claim that this is an exact Lewis and Clark Camp site.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Montana Fish and Game Commission indicates that there are no definite plans for historical development at this point. The site does, nevertheless possess some potential for a durable interpretive exhibit.

Transmission Line Impact:

In view of the number of roads, bridges and other transmission lines in the vicinity, a new line at this part of the valley would have only moderate impact.

References:

Biddle, Nicholas, (ed.). Journals of Lewis and Clark, Heritage Press, New York, 1962.

### Fur Trade Sites

The opening of the fur trade of Montana will probably always occasion debate, for the sufficient reason that written accounts of those early years by literate traders are few, though their activities may be preceded by half-a-century or more of informal trapping and trading by their less scholarly fellow-traders.

The earliest document that purports to represent this era and is unquestionably associated with Montana is the journal of Charles LeMay in 1802 (published in 1811). The earliest precise and clearcut account is that of Francois Antoine LaRocque, who spent the late summer of 1805 in the country around the Little Horn and Lower Big Horn and the Yellowstone in the company of a party of Crow Indians.

Fur trade activity is covered by more-or-less continuous documentation from 1807 on, with the work of Manuel Lisa's Missouri Fur Company and David Thompson's work for the Northwest Company being the major early references.

Within the study area are a number of fur-trade related sites on the Yellowstone, and a smaller number on the Upper Missouri. We examine each specific site below, utilizing the best existing locational and documentary sources.

Several such sites in northwestern Montana are also within the study area and are similarly considered.

#### Major References on the Fur Trade in Montana:

Chittenden, Hiram M. The American Fur Trade of the Far West, Palo Alto, 1954.

Phillips, Paul C. The Fur Trade, University of Oklahoma Press, 1961.

Sunder, John E. The Fur Trade on the Upper Missouri, 1840-1865, University of Oklahoma Press, 1965.

Each author cites an abundance of additional materials.

Ft. Van Buren:

. This post was built by the Upper Missouri Outfit of the American Fur Company in 1835. From that point until it was destroyed by the company prior to the construction of Fort Alexander in 1842, it was the major fur trading post on the Yellowstone.

Location: S  $\frac{1}{2}$ , Sec. 16, T. 6 N., R. 42 E.

Description of Site:

At this point the Yellowstone cuts into a fairly high older river terrace. It is possible that some of the site has thus been eroded away. It is also possible that railway and highway construction have destroyed part of the site. Never-the-less, portions of the site may still be relatively undisturbed within the indicated tract.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

The lands that must encompass the existing portions of the site, (if they can be confirmed by archeological work), lie in such a situation in relationship to ranching activity, railway and highway development in the area, that they should be relatively easy to obtain for recreational/historical development. Portions of the site not overrun by the above developments should constitute a reasonably clean archeological site, and one worthy of preservation and development. This block of land also appears to have good prospects for recreational development. The site is in private ownership.

Transmission Line Impact:

The combination of historic significance and development potential of this site, combined with that of the Custer expedition campsite not far away, is such that we would hope transmission lines could be kept at least two miles away (except on the south, where there is some possibility of terrain screening from these sites.)

References:

- Sunder, John E. Fur Trade of the Upper Missouri, 1842-1865, Oklahoma University Press, Norman, 1965.
- Chittenden, Hiram H. The American Fur Trade of the Far West, Palo Alto, 1954.

Fort Sarry II:

. This post of Pierre Choteau Jr. & Co. was built in 1857, replacing an earlier post of the same name (q.v.) some miles downstream. It represents the last attempt by a major trading company to establish a main trading post in the Crow country. By the time this post was built, the Crows in this immediate region were already withdrawing ahead of increasing pressure from Sioux, Cheyenne, Blackfeet and Atsina raiders. The post has been precisely located and well described by Captain William F. Reynolds who visited it in 1859.

Location: W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 2, T. 6 N., R. 37 E.

Description:

Reynolds description narrows the location to a specific cut-off "island" on the Yellowstone River bottom-land. The "island" exists today, though the waters of the river seldom reach the old channel around the south side of the site, due to irrigation withdrawals upstream. The tract of land is in pasture, with a heavy grass cover and park-like scattering of cottonwood trees. Grass cover prevented our party from specifically locating the site through surface evidence. This appears to be the least disturbed of the trading post sites in the region. Site is privately owned.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

This site seems to offer good potential for an archeological project to determine the precise location and extent of the post and to detail its construction and internal layout. It may be one of the "cleanest" and least damaged of such sites in the Yellowstone/Upper Missouri country, and as such represents an archeological resource of considerable magnitude.

Its location is fairly easily accessible from old U.S. 10, and via connecting roads from convenient interchanges on I-94.

The site offers much in the way of attractive recreation potential.

Transmission Line Impact:

Development potential is sufficiently high for this site that we would recommend not approaching it closer than two miles with the line unless adequate terrain screening could be secured by running the line far enough south on the bench beyond the valley here.

References:

Raynolds, William F. Report on the Exploration of the Yellowstone and the Country Drained by that River, Senate Executive Document 77, 40th Congress, 2nd Session (1866).

Brown, Mark H. Plainsmen of the Yellowstone, Putnam, New York, 1961.

Early Trading Posts at the Mouth of the Big Horn:

These fur-trading posts are:

Fort Manuel (sometimes called Ft. Raymond, Ft. Lisa  
or simply "Big Horn Post") 1807-1811

Fort Benton 1821-1824

"Ft. Manuel:" was the first trading post in the Yellowstone basin. It has been described as a "cabin, with a couple of rooms and a loft". Built by Manuel Lisa's men in 1807, it served as a base for various trapping and exploring ventures in the area, including John Colter's celebrated lone trip into the Big Horn Basin. This small post was abandoned in 1811.

Fort Benton: was built here in 1821 by Joshua Pilcher's reorganized Missouri Fur Company. It must not be confused by the later post of the same name far to the northwest on the Missouri. It was abandoned in 1824 when the major trading companies shifted for a time to the "rendezvous" system of trading for furs. One account places this post about two miles below the mouth of the Big Horn. It has sometimes been called the "Big Horn Post".

Fort Cass: was still longer lived. It was built in 1832 by the Upper Missouri Outfit of the American Fur Company, and abandoned by them in 1839. Most accounts place it about three miles below the mouth of the Big Horn, which would locate it in Sec. 13, T. 5 N., R. 35 E.

Location: All 3 of these posts were located near the junction of the Big Horn and the Yellowstone, on the right (in this area east bank). Available descriptions of the sites involved are not sufficiently precise to permit an efficient exploration of the ground in detail. No later travelers are known to have ever described the precise locations. All we can say is that the first two posts were probably located somewhere in the east half of section 28 or the west half of section 27, T. 5 N., R. 34 E. and Fort Cass was probably in Sec. 23 of the same township.

Description:

All of the land in this tract that is above ordinary flood stage has been under cultivation for periods in excess of sixty years. Most of it is used as irrigated farmland, this piece of bottomland being one of the best tracts of farmland along the Yellowstone. Irrigation

ditches, land-leveling, access roads and other farming activity have repeatedly and intensively reshaped the surface contour of the land here. We believe it highly improbable that anyone will ever be able to precisely locate the exact sites of these posts and confirm the location by physical evidence in the ground.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Due to the extensive disturbance of this area, we can not envision any on-site development at these posts' locales. We would rather see the state or other appropriate body develop a central facility near the I-94 interchange west of here to interpret the whole area from an overlook. This seems the most feasible.

Transmission Line Impact:

A major transmission line would constitute a substantial visual intrusion anywhere within this zone of intensive historic activity around the mouth of the Big Horn.

Ft. Connah and environs:

This is a trading post operated by fur trade pioneer/settler Angus McDonald c. 1846. Nearby is a choice collection of historic buildings, relocated on a local ranch.

Location: T. 19 N., R. 19 W.

Description:

Remaining traces of MacDonalds's post is a storehouse, in the appearance of a residence. Constructed of log, with shingle roof, and an added porch with rock on southeast side. In fairly sound condition. Protected by interested ranch foreman and pole fence. Has been lived in, up to c. 1950's. Graves of Angus Mac Donald and wife, plus small number of other relatives in small cemetery 200 yards east of storehouse. Behind cottonwood groves flanking small creek. Not visible from house.

Environs is approximately 2 miles north of St. Ignatius and from Ft. Connah, about 19 miles south along Highway 93, and on the immediate west side is a cluster of buildings which relate to the McDonald family. The Indian trade in the area, and other historical aspects of the mission valley. They comprise the "Four Winds Trading Post, of Mr. Preston Miller, St. Ignatius, Mt. They are partially a foundation for his business and partially a rather well-done private effort on the part of Mr. Miller. All would have been burned for fire wood had he not saved them.

Prospect and Potential for Development:

Both the Ft. Connah remains and the Preston Miller preservation deserve protection. Miller already has reasonable results and plans more similar work. The Connah site may be preserved by the present cattle co. owners. Someone should prod them to do so.

Transmission line impact:

The total historic resources of this site group and vicinity are such that we believe a major transmission line should avoid the area within the visual horizon of the sites.

References:



Fort Pease:

This post was built in the fall of 1875 to serve as headquarters for a group of men engaged in "wolfing" and buffalo hunting in the area. It was named for Fellows D. Pease, former agent to the Crows, and one of the founding group of hunters and traders. The post was harrassed persistently by the hostile Sioux, and was abandoned at the insistence of the Army in the spring of 1876.

Location: SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 35, T. 6 N., R. 35 E.

Site Description:

Site is located on the Yellowstone River bottomland not far from some old farm locations. This site has been destroyed by land-leveling for irrigated farming within the past few years. No trace of the surface evidence that was there 15 years ago now remains.

Location is precise, confirmed by early surveys. Site is in private ownership.

Development potential and prospect:

If there were any sort of "base" for interpretive operations in the area that could attract visitors, it would be feasible to have at least a durable interpretive exhibit here. Considering the isolation of this site from the main stream of traffic through the area we doubt that this would come about in the very near future.

Transmission Line Impact:

Pease Bottom, where the site is located is intensively farmed, but otherwise free of major intrusion. If a line were to cross the Yellowstone in this area, the site should be preserved from physical damage. In view of the total extent of historic resources around the mouth of the Big Horn, we would hope the line could cross the Yellowstone well away from this area.

References:

Topping, E.S. (R.A. Murray, ed.). Chronicles of the Yellowstone, Ross and Haines, Minneapolis, 1968.

Brown, Mark H. Plainsmen of the Yellowstone, Putnam,  
New York, 1961.

Fort Sarry I:

This post was built by Pierre Choteau, Jr. and Company (successors to the Upper Missouri Outfit of the American Fur Company) in 1850. It was formally known as Fort Alexander Sarry. In his writings about the post, Fr. Desmet called it "Fort Alexander" contributing greatly to confusion between it and an earlier post some miles upstream. The post was abandoned in 1855, and in 1857 another post of the same name was built some 30 miles to the west, adding to an already confused nomenclature. The post was the major one serving tribes in the Yellowstone country, and figured importantly in the missionary activities of Fr. Desmet and in his diplomatic contacts with the Indians of the region leading up to the "Fort Laramie Treaty" or Horse Creek Treaty of 1851.

Location: S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 10, N  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 15, T. 6 N., R. 42 E.

Description:

This site has been land-leveled and is now an intensively-farmed tract of irrigated land. There is today no prospect of precisely finding and archeologically investigating the site.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

The intensity of agricultural development here renders the use of the site for interpretation or recreation highly improbable. At most a roadside interpretive marker is all the development we can foresee for this site.

Transmission Line Impact:

A major transmission line would have no further impact on this site in itself, though one traversing the site would have visual impact on other unrelated sites that lie within a short distance south of the river (see Terry/Custer campsite, June 21-22, 1875 and Fort Van Buren site.)

References:

McFarling, Lloyd. Exploring the Northern Plains, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1953.

Fort Alexander:

From 1842-1850 this was the main post of the American Fur Company's Upper Missouri Outfit (and its successors, Pierre Choteau, Jr. and Co.) on the Yellowstone.

Location: Sec. 11 and 12, T. 6 N., R. 39 E.

Description:

Located on a low tract of Yellowstone River bottomland, this site has for sixty years or more been developed for irrigated farming. The several different land leveling projects here have destroyed the physical evidence of the site. Site is private property.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

In view of the condition of the site and land values in the area for farming, we doubt that there is much prospect for development here. Roadside signs would be the only probably interpretive development for this site.

Transmission Line Impact:

Impact on a site in this condition and so situated would be minimal.

References:

Sunder, John, E. The Fur Trade on the Upper Missouri 1840-1865, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1961.

Salish House I.

Major trading post of the Northwest Company in the region, c. 1810.

Location: We were unable to pinpoint the location exactly, apparently no one has uncovered specific physical evidence of this site.

Description:

Probably overrun by later development in the valley here, but this is not certain.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Unless someone pinpoints the site and confirms the find archeologically, there is no prospect for other than roadside interpretation of the story of the locale.

Transmission Line Impact:

This would be minimal unless the site is discovered. During any construction in this locale, archeologists working the line alignment should be alert to the possibility of locating this site.

References:

Bond, Rowland. The Original Northwesters David Thompson and the Native Tribes of North America, Nine Mile Falls, Washington, Spokane House Enterprises, 1970-71.

Fort Cotton and Fort Lewis:

These two posts were near one another but were not the same post. Ft. Cotton was an "opposition" post of one of the minor partnerships in the trade in 1842, and Fort Lewis was an American Fur Company post of 1844-1846.

Location: T. 23 N., R. 6 E. Precise location has never been confirmed by surface evidence or archeology.

Description: see above

Development potential and Prospects:

It is impossible to adequately assess these until the sites can be pinpointed. This area is largely private land, and access is poor. We doubt that much beyond archeology and streamside interpretation could be expected at minor sites such as these.

Transmission Line Impact:

Minimal, unless the line might directly disturb one of the sites. Archeologists working any exact line in this area should be on the alert for these sites.

References:

Sunder, John. The Fur Trade of the Upper Missouri 1840-1865, Oklahoma University Press, Norman, 1965.

Fort Fiegan 1831-32:

This was the first American Fur Company post to deal directly with the Blackfeet in their own country. It was abandoned and burned in the spring of 1832.

Location: Sec. 7, T. 25 N., R. 10 E.

Description:

The site of the post should be a relatively clean archeological site. Its location is generally known, but no one has yet found surface evidence to confirm the precise location as a basis for archeological work.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Site is sufficiently isolated and on private land as to make development unlikely. If it can be precisely located, archeological work would be desirable and a necessity if the line were to pass this way and threaten direct disturbance of the site.

Transmission Line Impact:

Minimal in the current and probably future state of the site so long as it was not directly disturbed. In common with other sites in this area however, we cannot recommend a major power line near this stretch of the Missouri.

References:

Sunder, John. The Fur Trade of the Upper Missouri, 1840-1865, Oklahoma University Press, 1965.

Fort McKenzie, 1832-1843:

A major Upper Missouri Outfit post of the American Fur Company. Post was the scene of a notable massacre of Blackfeet Indians instigated by F.A. Chardon and the notorious Alexander Harvey.

Location: S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 1, T. 24 N., R. 9 E.

Description:

This site could be located on the ground until just a few years ago. The owner has since plowed it all and farms the site.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

The nature of the recent farming operations has probably eliminated most of the prospect for meaningful archeology on the site. It should nevertheless be investigated if a direct disturbance of the site were in prospect. Development potential here is limited to possible streamside interpretation for boaters.

Transmission Line Impact:

Considering site condition, visual impact of a line here on the site itself would be minimal, but in common with other sites in this stretch of the Missouri, we would like to see major lines kept out of the streamside area so far as possible.

References:

Sunder, John. The Fur Trade on the Upper Missouri, 1840-1865, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1965.



Salish House II:

Site of David Thompson's second Northwest Company post of this name.

Location: within city of Thompson Falls

Description:

Site was located about 40 years ago by Train White of nearby Dayton (still living there). Site was confirmed by archeological finds, but has since been overrun by the expansion of the town of Thompson Falls.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

none other than possible street-side marking

Transmission Line Impact:

none because of site being overrun by development.

References:

Bond, Rowland. The Original Northwesters David Thompson and the Native Tribes of North America, Nine Mile Falls, Washington, Spokane House Enterprises, 1970-71.

Fox, Livingston & Co. Trading Post:

This "opposition" company operated on the upper Missouri and the Yellowstone briefly against the competition of the established traders. They maintained a small post in 1842-1843 "on the Big Horn, near the mouth of the Little Big Horn."

Location:

This post has not been precisely located nor physical indications of its location found, despite the efforts of several enthusiastic students to do so. It is believed to lie somewhere east of Hardin and this tract has been intensively developed for irrigated farming.

Development Potential and Prospects:

Not possible to assess accurately until site is positively located.

Transmission Line Impact:

Were such a line to cross the Big Horn in this area the possibility of this post being in the area should be considered in the preliminary archeological survey work.

References:

Sunder, John. The Fur Trade of the Upper Missouri, 1840-1865, University of Oklahoma Press, 1965.

Chittenden, Hiram M. The American Fur Trade of the Far West, Palo Alto, 1954.

### Mining Sites

From the first substantial gold discoveries of 1862 to the present, mining in many forms and for many minerals has been one of Montana's principal economic activities. Some of the mining developments have been of such nature or such timing that they have had considerably influence on national affairs. Other mining developments have been of substantial influence in the development of the territory and of the state. Many more have been of more temporary and local influence.

While the history of the mining settlements is complex in itself, the physical situation of most of the historic sites related to mining is much more so. Most of the long-occupied sites have gone through several phases of placer mining activity, then shifted into hard-rock mining for precious metals, and in some cases, phased over into volume processing of lower grade ores, particularly of lead and copper. In many cases, in periods of high metal prices even the older mine-dumps have been reworked for their content of precious metals. At the more continuously successful mining towns progressive development work has obliterated practically all evidence of earlier phases of the industry. This is particularly true around Butte and Helena.

The abandoned towns are known generally as "ghost towns", but due to the constant change in the minerals industry, to changes in rural settlement patterns, and other factors, some are much more "ghostly" than others. In this portion of our study we directly examined a large number of such settlements. We found several particularly well preserved sets of mining structures, and some towns with many buildings nearly intact. We found that in just the past ten to fifteen years many of these towns have deteriorated rapidly. Heavy snows at the higher elevations seem to be the major destructive force, along with fires of various origin, and a certain amount of vandalism is present at the more easily accessible sites. Actually, we found vandalism to be much less prevalent at the mining ghost-towns than has been generally supposed.

We also found that recent increases in the price of heavy metals have caused small-scale lease operators to reopen a large number of mines in Montana, in some cases mines that lay dormant for sixty to seventy years. We would expect this trend to continue.

Marysville:

This is one of Montana's really major historic mining camps. For some years its production was the greatest of any gold mine in Montana. Major production years were the late 1870's to around 1890. Then came two later periods in which the tailings from the old mills were reworked. At peak of development the town had a population of about 5,000.

Location: T. 11 N., R. 5 W.

Description:

Town has a considerable number of fine 19th century structures remaining. Some are abandoned; some are occupied; some are preserved, and some are deteriorating. Approximately 10 merchandizing establishments remain; a church; some fraternal related structures; some mining company dwellings and other buildings; a large number of modest to low-income dwellings.

Site integrity blemished by the following: Principal mine structure and site, a third of a mile south and east of town has been destroyed by fire. Modern debris only remains. There is also in the town, the expected smattering of modern clap-trap housing, the inevitable glare of new trailers, and varying degrees of contemporary alteration to older, original buildings. Further, the road to the site is widened and apparently heavily traveled in both winter and summer. Considerable old dredger tailings along creek on approach road. Numerous mine tailings and a few related mine structures along same road.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

The town is still a functioning community. While the residents have obviously not formed and signed covenants to preserve the old appearance and atmosphere, this is what is taking place for the most part due to the standard of living, habits, etc. Its preservation should be insured due to its proximity to a major population center of Montana, its historical significance, and its natural site integrity.

Transmission Line Impact:

A major transmission line through this area would

have a serious impact on this important historic site. We recommend that any line be kept beyond the visual horizon of this community.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggin's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolle, Murial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Philipsburg Valley and Town of Philipsburg:

This community was a substantial silver-mining center from 1866-1887 and for another brief period in the 1890's. Philip Deidesheimer, internationally known mining engineer worked here.

Location: T. 2 N. and T. 5 N., R. 14 W.

Description:

The valley still reflects the agricultural, lumbering and mining activities of its historical background. It is relatively isolated, too. Very limited in modern intrusions, the highway being one of the major exceptions. Numerous ranches, residences, and so on, bear surprising architectural interest and integrity. And, the natural environment is damaged but little.

The town of Philipsburg has a larger proportion of modern distractions, but they are often cosmetic and superficial, such as neon signs on the facades of otherwise unaltered edifices of the 1890's. The county buildings, churches, school, most residences, many commercial structures and so on, are in possession of a flavor and integrity seldom seen in many western states. Only a number of towns in California's Mother Lode Country could suggest the atmosphere preserved by Philipsburg.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

We do not believe public acquisition or development is necessary or likely here. Preservation of the numerous old structures seems to be an active way of life here.

Transmission Line Impact:

A major transmission line would constitute a major visual intrusion on a well-preserved but functioning community. We recommend that such a line should avoid the Philipsburg valley entirely.

References:

- Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggin's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.
- Wells, Marial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.
- Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Sunset Publishing Co., S. F. Calif., 1964.

Bi-Metallic Mill:

This was the major milling complex for the mines of the Philipsburg area. Active throughout the life of the mining activity here, with structures representing most periods present.

Location: T. 7 N., R. 13 W.

Description:

Two frame residences of mining company built c. 1880's. One relatively unchanged; another has some modern improvements, but no destructive and non-reversible alterations. Brick office building. being used as a residence, but no exterior modification, c. 1880's-1890's. Approximately 10 large and medium-size wooden structures, frame construction with siding. Consist of out buildings of various uses, garages, warehouses, ore-bins, shops, and so on. Weathered but fair condition and little alteration. Various construction dates are likely, but c. 1910's to 1940's. Remains of the mill itself. Burned by Forest Service as fire hazard. Once largest structure in Montana. Excellent stone and brick work visible, plus two tall smoke stacks on hill, in apparently sound condition. Tailings, settling ponds, rails from railroad spur, trestle, loading dock. Much wire-bound wooden pipe in evidence. Numerous small frame and log dwellings up creek to south. Deteriorating, but not collapsing.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Preservation is conceivable. The owners, (grand sons of the original owner), are interested in seeing such an end come about, but have been frustrated in their efforts. Mill was offered to the state of Montana in the 1960's... was refused... so Forest Service burned it. Worthy of evaluation.

Transmission Line Impact:

We feel a major transmission line here would have a serious impact on the visual setting of this important property.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggins, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolle, Murial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago,  
1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns,  
Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.



Garnet:

This gold mining camp was started in 1867, experienced steady development through the 1880's and another boom in the 1890's. Much of the town was destroyed by fire in 1912. Mining operations continued until 1920 and there was a small amount of lease operation during the late 1930's.

Location: T. 13 N., R. 15 W.

Description:

Mining community adjacent to numerous mines, some of most importance of which were established in 1867 and 1873. There was considerable mining activity between the 1890's and 1914; then again during the 1920's; then from 1934 to the early 1940's. The structures, approximately 45 to 50, reflect this span of time. They are predominantly of log, and must be of the 1910's-1940's. There are four sizeable frame structures (hotel, saloon, two stores), and one rather nice siding-covered log combination structure made in 1895 by a saloon keeper and carpenter. The majority of the structures are small one, two, three room log cabins built by miners. Most are without foundations and with thin wooden floors. Numerous foundations and collapsed building remains can be seen plus fingers or tailings projecting from long-collapsed mining tunnels.

Prospect and Potential for Development:

This townsite is under active development by the Bureau of Land Management, with stabilization and restoration of surviving structures in progress. A full-time caretaker/guard is employed by BLM here.

Transmission Line Impact:

In view of the importance and the level of projected development here, any major transmission line should stay outside the visual horizon for this site.

References:

- Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggin's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.
- Wolle, Murial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.
- Florin, Lambert, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971

Bearmouth (or Beartown):

This was once a sizeable settlement of placer miners in 1865-1869. More sophisticated placer work followed between 1878 and 1893, resulting in the obliteration by dredging of earlier sites and buildings. Some estimates of production of the gulch run as high as \$30,000,000 making it one of the major Montana placer gold districts.

Location: T. 11 N., R. 14 W.

Description:

Nothing remains here from the early period and very little from more recent placer work.

Development potential and prospects:

Probably limited to roadside signing.

Transmission Line Impact:

Minimal on the site itself, more significant in terms of visual impact on the road in to Garnet, the Bureau of Land Management's major preservation project in the state.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggings, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolle, Murial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Coloma:

This was the site of both placer workings and underground mines from 1867 through the 1880's. There were also extensive developments here from 1905 to 1916.

Location: T. 12 N., R. 14 W.

Description:

Approximately 30 structures, most of logs. A very few of frame, one of which is on a stone foundation and a bit more substantial than usual. A fair percentage may have been constructed in the late 19th or early 20th century, but in some features, in debris about the site, etc., there is abundant evidence that the site was occupied by miners in the 1920's, 30's, 40's (even today it tends to be a long-term campsite for transients, hippies, and the like.) Most of the buildings are in relatively fair condition. Mine tailings at south-center of townsite. Considerable expanse of ground to west, on town's edge, shows traces of minor structures, etc. Cemetery is located approximately three miles to south, adjacent to dirt road between Garnet and Coloma. Natural integrity in immediate zone is good to excellent. Within the wide surrounding area are multiple imprints of the intensive logging taking place in this forest. (much of which is privately owned).

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Proximity to Garnet may enhance the possibility of development at this site, though the sheer number of structures here might pose a financial barrier to effective stabilization.

Transmission Line Impact:

A transmission line should avoid visual impact on this area until further study can determine the feasibility of expanding the Garnet preservation project to this related camp.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggin's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolfe, Marial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago,  
1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns,  
Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Keystone (and the Nancy Lee Mine):

This community is also sometimes called Sylvanite. Gold was discovered here in 1895, with rapid and extensive development from 1896-1899. Then the mill closed down for a few years. In the 1909-1910 period new mills were built, but in 1910 a disastrous forest fire burned the town and the mills. The community rebuilt in 1911, and the existing buildings are remnants of this reconstruction.

Location: T. 17 N., R. 26 W.

Description:

Nancy Lee Mine: Chain across road. "No trespassing". Active mining under way. "An old mine, but no idea of condition of site and remaining structures."

Keystone: Approximately 12 buildings remain on site. More a community or rather widely scattered buildings. (Apparently mostly residences, and built all of log,... rather than a town in the customarily seen pattern. 1 board and batten structure (possibly once a store, but could also have been a blacksmith-wagon-stable. 1 frame residence, built in 1890's, still used as residence. 1 schoolhouse, apparently of frame and siding, (and the town's second such facility), now used as a ranch house. 1 stone chimney remains in front of the ranchhouse. Approximately 8 miscellaneous log structures, most in fair condition, scattered up and down valley and creek.

Development potential and Prospects:

Natural integrity and state of preservation of structural remains are very good, but the relative significance of this site may limit its chances for active preservation.

Transmission Line Impact:

In this setting a line would have serious impact, so it would be better if it could avoid visual intrusion on the area until it is known whether state or local groups might be actively interested in preservation.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Digging, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho,  
1962.

Wolle, Murial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago,  
1967.

Florin, Lambert, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns,  
Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Granite:

This important silver mining property was developed in the early 1880's and contributed significantly to the state's output of this metal until it was closed in 1893.

Location: T. 7 N., R. 13 W.

Description:

Site integrity is quite good if not excellent. Natural environment unspoiled by contemporary activity for the most part. Tree growth and ground cover good, although timber was probably harvested for the mines in the historical period. Wonderful vistas of surrounding vallies and mountains. Below the town, at the mine site, where the headframe is apparently still functional, (and where the only modern structure, a tin-roofed building is located), are the only signs of fixed modern intrusion. Limited power lines there. No other visible scars of modern mining or lumbering, etc.

Many, many stone foundations for large, small and moderately-sized structures scattered around entire site. Extensive stone and brick foundations of old mill, apparently burned.

Surviving structures include a Superintendent's house, c. 1880's, in fair to good condition, but being damaged by exposure and vandalism. Was occupied into the 1960's. There are also approximately 5 small frame out-buildings at this residence site. Secondly, there is the Miners' Union Hall, constructed of iron, brick, stone, frame and siding. Deteriorating from exposure and souvenir hunting, and threatened by slippage of soil and rock where cut into slope of hill. A superb specimen nonetheless. c. 1880's. Third, a stone mining office. Good to fine condition. c. 1880's-1900's. Fourth, two frame buildings with siding. Mining company use. Fair condition. Fifth, two boarding house and/or merchandizing structures. Frame and siding. Fair to poor. Sixth, a brick vault or powder magazine. Missing roof, door. Bricks deteriorating. Seventh, additional mining structures higher up mountain. Weathered but apparently in sound condition. Eight, miner's cabin and garage, c. 1920's-1930's. Fair.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

One of the most charming of mining towns in Montana.

Most emphatically should be preserved by a suitable governmental agency at state or federal level.

Transmission Line Impact:

The transmission line should stay outside the visual horizon of this important site.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggin's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolle, Murial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.



Maiden, and the Spotted Horse Mine:

This town and the mine, as well as other lesser mines in Maiden Canyon and on the ridge beyond it, were founded in the early 1880's and production remained substantial until 1891. Through the Nineties the settlement and these mines declined. In 1905 a fire destroyed much of the near abandoned town. The town lay abandoned for many years, until the rising gold prices of the past two years brought new "prospectors" to work old dumps and reopen the Spotted Horse mine as a small lease operation.

Location: Sec. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, T. 16 N., R. 20 E.

Description:

A very few of Maiden's buildings are substantially intact, along with a few structures dating from later attempts to reopen the mines. The Spotted Horse Mine is being worked for high-grade pockets at the present time.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

As long as gold prices remain as high as they are in relation to labor costs, small lease operations and the general price of gold-producing properties is likely to keep the value of this land too high to acquire for preservation purposes.

Transmission Line Impact:

A transmission line here would have minimal impact on the historic resources of the area.

References:

- Florin, Lambert. Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.
- Wolle, Muriel S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1965.
- Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggin's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Neihart: (Canyon City)

This was primarily a silver-mining area developed in 1881. It has seen several periods of activity: 1881-1890's, 1917-1920, and with some development work in 1936-37 and again in the mid-1940's.

Location: Town of Neihart on U.S. 89.

Description:

This settlement has an intermix of structures and ruins ranging from the earliest period through the later development periods and up to fairly recent summer homes. At present the economy is based mostly on the summer people and the fall hunting trade.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

A site such as this presents extensive problems for any historical development, and we cannot foresee any agency wanting to acquire such a set of management problems for a rather minor block of total historic resources.

Transmission Line Impact:

Line impact on historic values at a location such as this would be minimal.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Digger's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolle, Murial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

New York Gulch: (York)

In the late 1860's several thousand persons lived here, while working the placers of this gulch. Quartz mines in the upper reaches of the gulch and its branches operated in the 1880's, and for brief periods as late as 1937.

Location: T. 11 N., R. 1 W.

Description:

Town of York is now largely a "second home" community drawing from the Helena area. Two stores probably date from the later mining periods. Reworking of the placers has eliminated most of the early period surface evidence.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

A single roadside interpretive sign is about the maximum development we could foresee here.

Transmission Line Impact:

A transmission line here would have minimal impact on the historic resources of the region.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggins, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolle, Marial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns. Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Kendall:

This was one of the later gold mining settlements, founded in the 1890's and abandoned after 1920. It is fairly typical of the relatively short-lived camps dependent on lower grade and more complex ores extracted by the cyanide process alone.

Location: Sec. 30, T. 18 N., R. 18 E.

Description:

Quite a bit more capital evidently flowed into Kendall at peak of development than into some of its other central Montana contemporaries. Buildings were often of stone masonry, brick and concrete. Today the stark and massive ruins of these structures, stripped of their timber are the thing that sets Kendall apart from some of the other towns.

Development Potential and Prospect:

Today the Kendall townsite is in use as a Boy Scout camp, and the prospect of the site being preserved is good. The mine, however is being worked again, a very recent development that may limit preservation work to the townsite.

Transmission Line Intact:

Due to the combination of preservation and recreation use here we would prefer to see the line stay outside the visual horizon from the townsite, a relatively easy matter to achieve because of the possibility of good terrain screening.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggin's, Caxton Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolfe, Murial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Gold Coin Mine:

A minor silver mining property, active in the 1880's, again in the period around 1906.

Location: T. 5 N., R. 13 W.

Description:

It appeared to our investigator that the mine here was being worked in a small way at present. One frame house and four log houses currently occupied. Our man could not gain access to the property, but estimates the houses probably date from the 1906 period when the mill was renovated and put into service.

Potential and Prospects for Development:

Very slight if at all due to current state of operations at the property.

Transmission Line Impact:

A transmission line through this area would have minimal impact on historic resources of the region.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggin's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolle, Murial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Southern Cross:

A mine and camp principally active in the period 1890-1907, but reopened in the 1930's and operated until 1941.

Location: T. 5 N., R. 13 W.

Description:

Property is an intermix of structures from the two main periods of occupancy plus new and expensive summer residences. Included are ten old workman's cottages, two two-story frame houses, four new houses, all occupied at least seasonally, five business buildings and six company buildings, these are boarded up. Site has numerous mine headframes and other workings.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

None in view of current ownership and use. ACM owns the mine and the company structures at least.

Transmission Line Impact:

minimal if any

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggins, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolfe, Murial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Blackfoot City: (sometimes called Ophir)

This was the center for considerable placer mining activity in the period from 1865 to 1882. A fire in 1869 and another in 1882 destroyed all of the original structures. Present structures date from a limited revival of placer workings in the mid-1930's.

Location: T. 11 N., R. 17 W.

Description:

Existing structures included two log buildings, one apparently a barn, and the other a residence. Both are of apparently recent construction, that is, sometime between 1920 and 1950. There are also a few small wooden frame outbuildings adjacent to the barn and home. And, there is an old trailer home, and a recently constructed modern cabin dwelling. Three mine tailing deposits are visible in the vicinity. A few depressions in the ground suggest older building sites, but no structural remains are visible. Overall site integrity is good, with few intrusions beyond those mentioned.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

In view of the total lack of remains from the important early mining period, this site would rate very low on any scale of development priorities. Roadside interpretive signing is about the maximum level of development possible.

Transmission Line Impact:

minimal in view of the situation described above

References:

- Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggin's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.
- Wolle, Marial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.
- Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Pioneer:

This town saw considerable placer mining development in the 1860's and 1870's. The early townsite was overrun by large scale dredging between 1933 and 1939. Most of the present structures were built in this later development period.

Location: T. 9 N., R. 11 W.

Description:

Inextricably formed of log and frame structures, approximately 15 in all, of old and relatively recent date, evidencing relatively contemporary use until abandoned. There are structures of the 1920's to 1950's. There are two stone wall remnants which appear as though they could be of the 70's or 80's. Has the appearance of a Depression-period shanty-town. Half of structures regardless of time of construction are in poor condition, with walls and/or roof caving in. (Local informants state that some buildings were purposely blown up, either because taxes were too severe, or because cattlemen using the area were worried that buildings might fall on cows using interiors for shelter.)

Towering along eastern edge of town site are immense dredger tailings, and these extend down the road for quite a few miles toward Gold Creek. At the very beginning of the tailings, submerged in a pond, are iron and timber remains of what appears to have been the dredge. Considerable placer workings are also found surrounding the area, some with the appearances of considerable age, perhaps into the 60's and 70's. There is also a relatively recent grader-dozer slash along the back of the town, and a crudely bull-dozed road beyond the dredger tailings.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

None. Site is badly disheveled by contemporary use and misuse. Majority of structures are of early to mid 20th century.

Transmission Line Impact:

A transmission line here would have minimal impact on the historic resources of this area.

References:



Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggin's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho,  
1962.

Wolle, Murial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago,  
1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns,  
Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Gold Creek:

. This vicinity saw a great deal of placer mining in the 1860's. Present town is a later development.

Location: T. 10 N., R. 11 W.

Description:

Now a very small service community for surrounding ranches, railroad section workers, etc. Very few structures of any historical consequence. The only discernable specimen of any potential reference value is an old frame saloon. Otherwise, modern improvements or cannibalism or outright deterioration has removed any thing else which might have remained in recent years.

Prospect and Potential for Development: none

Transmission Line Impact: minimal

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggin's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolle, Muriel S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Princeton:

This is a minor gold/silver camp from the 1880's; with only about a million dollars total production.

Location: T. 8 N., R. 12 W.

Description:

Largely log structures, some possibly of late 19th century construction, but most apparently of 20th century fabrication. Approximately 15-20 overall. All apparently in use by summer residents, retired folks, and mining/lumbering industry employees. Modern improvements relatively limited, but visible. Mines up gulches apparently in operation.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

None, in view of apparently permanent occupation by residents. This is basically a back-woods community.

Transmission Line Impact:

A transmission line through this area would have minimal impact on the historic resources of the region.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggin's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolle, Marial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Charcoal Kiln:

. This is a typical kiln, built to supply fuel for mines and smelters of the region.

Location: T. 14 N., R. 4 W.

Description:

Consists of single orthodox-design "bee-hive" form of kiln. In rather good condition comparatively. No other foundational evidence visible in area, but grasses high and vegetation may have prohibited seeing same.

Prospect and Potential for Development:

In terms of stabilizing from natural forces, it would probably not be prohibitive if historical associations warrant. Located on old highway paralleling freeway, the former now serving as a low speed access to creek fishing, picnicking, and the like. Preservation as an historic site would be in keeping with present setting. Guard against vandalism might be another matter.

Transmission Line Impact:

Due to the presence of the interstate highway nearby, railroad, roads, and other modern developments, the additional impact of a transmission line would be minimal.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggin's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolle, Muriel S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Glendale:

A major silver and lead smelting center for this area from 1875-1900, processing about \$22,000,000 worth of ore in this period.

Location: T. 2 S., R. 10 W.

Description:

Remains of smelter, brick and native stone stacks, much slag, pilings, along creek; one brick and stone company office building; one stone structure's shell of undetermined use; some sign of additional smelter buildings in immediate vicinity. Of the supporting town, only one frame store (?) across from the office. Plus many (perhaps 40) stone foundations of small to moderate size in the area, along the creek and sides of hills. Two fine stone ranch buildings on road to town, still in use and only very slightly modified. Small number of log cabins on road from Melrose to Glendale. Integrity of site fair. Large working ranch to immediate north and west. Natural integrity disturbed only by dirt road, few telephones and local power lines, and by irrigation ditch to south. Modern power equipment scattered about site.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

This site has sufficient stacks, foundations and the like to provide a fairly coherent picture of the layout of the town. Structural stabilization does not appear to be a major or costly problem as at some other sites with other types of construction surviving. Site could be developed with heavy emphasis on durable outdoor exhibits.

Transmission Line Impact:

There are a number of smaller power lines, telephone lines and other visual intrusions at this site, but a major line within view would still have at least moderate impact.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggin's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolle, Muriel S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago,  
1967.

Flozin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns,  
Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

### Charcoal Kilns on Canyon Creek:

These kilns were built to supply fuel to the smelters at Glendale (q.v.). They were active in the 1875-1890's period.

Location: T. 2 S., R. 11 W.

### Description:

Of the 24 brick kilns, (constructed in more or less the traditional manner), approximately half are in relatively complete and sound condition; about 6 of the remaining 12 are in fragmentary condition, but more than half of their bricks remain in place. The last 6 have been reduced to shells about knee to waist high through collapse or cannibalism for the brick. A great amount of ash covers the surface to what may be a great depth. A number of old cut tree stumps are also standing. The scar on the hillside above and north, caused by sliding lumber down, still visible. Timber platform for winch still atop this same point. Natural integrity excellent. Dirt road only.

### Potential and Prospects for Development:

These kilns represent perhaps the best survival of this once common adjunct to mining and smelting in the west. Access at present is poor but the site should be preserved and ultimately could be developed in conjunction with development at Glendale.

### Transmission Line Impact:

In view of the importance of the site as a quality survival of an important industrial process for the period it represents, we believe no major transmission line should come within its visual horizon.

### References:

- Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggin's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.  
Wolfe, Murial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.  
Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Mill (name unknown at this point):

Near Georgetown, this is a mine and mill located between three and four miles from Georgetown, over a narrow forest road. Physical evidence would indicate turn-of-the century development with some possible use or occupancy in the 1930's.

Location: T. 6 N., R. 13 W.

Description:

Major feature of this site is a mill building, its forward areas partially collapsed but with its stamp mill section fairly sound. In this building is a set of milling equipment in good condition (considering its abandonment). Included is a Chicago Iron Works stamp mill, a Challenger Ore Feeder, both complete with wooden frames and bases. A power line corridor cuts through one edge of the building site.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

None so far as on site development is concerned. The milling machinery however might be acquired by a museum for display as it is one of the best of these we have encountered in the west, and its basic design is from the mid 1880's.

Transmission Line Impact:

A transmission line through this area would have minimal impact on the historic resources of the area.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Digger's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolle, Murial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.



Cable (Atlantic Cable Mine):

This property was opened in 1867, and worked until 1891. It was reopened in 1902 and ran until 1940. It produced what was reputedly the "largest gold nugget" found in 1881.

Location: T. 5 N., R. 13 W.

Description:

The property consists of two sections. The lower complex has one log house, fairly sound, and three other log structures in poor condition, along with minor sheds and collapsed outbuildings.

The upper complex has nine disintegrating log structures along with foundations, including that of a mill.

Little vandalism is evident here, but most of the structural damage is due to the heavy snows at this elevation.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

None seems likely in time to save the buildings from weathering down completely.

Transmission Line Impact:

A transmission line here would have minimal impact on the historic resources of the region.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggin's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolle, Murial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Wickes:

This community dates from 1877, with underground mining of silver/lead/gold ores in the vicinity. Completion of the branch line railroad to this point in 1883 permitted a rapid expansion of the operation. In 1900 and again in 1902 fires swept through the town and mills and they were not rebuilt.

Location: Sec. 16 and 21, T. 7 N., R. 4 W.

Description:

At northern entrance to town, on the dirt road leading into town, one will find one fire-brick charcoal kiln of the customary bee-hive shape. It is in relatively sound and whole condition. To the immediately adjacent south are the foundations of six more of the same form of kilns. Another 200 yards south, on the east side of the road are the badly deteriorating remains of a smelter. The only features in good condition are two tall smoke stacks, square in cross-section of native stone rendered in fine masonry. Another was once nearby, but it has either toppled by accident or on purpose, and the stones subsequently salvaged, cellars, other stone foundations, brick, charred remains, iron fragments, etc., are located here, too.

The mine is located across the road. Considerable tailings are present, plus the headframe, but the remains of structures almost negligible. The town itself, located immediately adjacent and south of the mine remains, is in almost as bad a condition as the smelter and mine. About 20-25 buildings remain along main street. Perhaps 10 are of the 19th century. But most have had modifications of the 1920's-1940's and of today. People are still living in or using most of the structures. To the east, in a canyon through which the dirt road to Amazon and Boulder leads, are approximately 20 other homes. Many are of log and/or frame. Some of old age but in use and most modified to one degree or another.

Potential and Prospect for development:

More recent homes in the town are still occupied. The more historic structures and ruins are picturesque, but beyond the possibility of reconstruction.

Transmission Line Impact:

Impact of a transmission line here would be minimal.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggin's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, /  
1962.

Wolle, Murial S. Montana Fay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago,  
1967.

Florn, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns,  
Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Thompson Gulch Mines:

Site of some mining activity as early as the 1870's.  
A small-scale mining area.

Location: Sec. 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, T. T-9N., R. 4 E.

Description:

Mining area here is privately owned, and we were unable to gain access to it. Relatives of the owner assert, and USFS confirms that there are no surviving structures from the earlier operations here. Current work may be development work, or rework of old dumps.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Considering the limited significance and lack of surviving structures here, we feel that the area has no historic development potential.

Transmission Line Impact:

A transmission line here would not significantly impact upon the historic resources of the area.

References:

Cheney, Roberta C. Names on the Face of Montana,  
University of Montana, Missoula, 1971.

Cave Gulch:

A minor placer area in 1865-66, with limited lode mining around the time of World War I.

Location: T. 11 N., R. 1 W.

Description:

No significant historical remains here.

Potential and Prospect for Development: none

Transmission Line Impact:

A transmission line here would have no significant impact on the historic resources of the region.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggins, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolle, Murial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns. Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Maggie Gulch:

A minor placer gold area, 1860's and with intermittent work up into the 1920's.

Location: T. 11 N., R. 1 E.

Description:

The last placer work has eliminated all traces of early activity here.

Potential and Prospect for Development: none

Transmission Line Impact:

A transmission line here would have no significant impact on the historic resources of the region.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Digging's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolle, Marial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Corbin:

. This was a mill and concentrator town for the Alta mine in the 1880's. It was a substantial producer in that decade.

Location: T. 7 N., R. 4 W.

Description:

Remains of smelter-stamp mill. Large stone foundations. Small brick structure adjacent, badly deteriorating. Tailing-settling pond wastes plus general debris on structures demolition and years of abandonment.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

So little remains here that we cannot envision any protection or development.

Transmission Line Impact:

A line through this area would have no significant impact on the area's historic resources.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggin's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolfe, Murial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Prickly Pear Valley:

This area has been the scene of intensive placer workings at four different periods, the earliest around 1864, the last in the 1930's.

Location: T. 8 N. T. 9 N., R. 3 W.

Description:

The most notable feature here is the immense tailing heaps piled up by dredges in the valley during the last placer workings. Nothing remains from the earliest periods.

Development Potential and Prospect:

The Montana Highway Commission has planned a set of interpretive exhibits on placer mining at the Interstate Highway rest area near Jefferson City.

Transmission Line Impact:

Minimal, but it would be preferable if the line were out of view of the rest area.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggins, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolfe, Murial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.



Cardwell/Riverside (Jefferson Island):

. These were railroad towns serving as supply centers for the mines in the vicinity in the period 1882-1905.

Location: T. 1 N., R. 3 W.

Description:

At Cardwell, very little of consequence.

At Riverside, 3 old buildings, c. 1900-1910's, on east side of highway. Two appear to be stores, and one possibly a fraternal organization structure.

Development Potential and Prospect:

We would say there is little potential and prospect for development here.

Transmission Line Impact:

Minimal in view of small number of remains from the peak period of importance and the general immediate setting.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Digger's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wells, Marial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Basin:

This town was most active in the 1880-1910 period, but some small scale mining continues in the vicinity today.

Location: T. 6 N., R. 5 W.

Description:

Basin contains an attractive intermix of structures from each development period, plus the ruins of the Jib Mill and several mining properties. It is a functioning summer-home community.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Particularly limited, since the Montana Highway Commission contrary to the advice of competent consultants has decided to run the new interstate highway through the middle of the town.

Transmission Line Impact:

Minimal for above reason!

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggin's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolfe, Murial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

French Gulch:

This was a major placer mining area from 1864- the early 1870's yielding an estimated million dollars a year. The area lay idle until the introduction of the large scale dredge and the cyanide process in the late 1890's, and the dredge operations fairly quickly cleaned out the entire gulch.

Location: T. 3 N., R. 12 W.

Description:

No surface evidence of mining, dwellings, etc. Natural integrity excellent. (Time limited, thus no thorough examination of grounds to detect latent evidence).

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Probably has no potential beyond roadside signing.

Transmission Line Impact:

Minimal in view of low development possibilities.

References:

- Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggings, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.
- Wolle, Murial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.
- Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Dewey:

. Started as a lumber camp in the 1860's, it soon became a mill town for the surrounding mining country. The peak of development here was between 1877 and 1895.

Location: T. 1 S., R. 10 W.

Description:

Two log stables, c. 1890's-1910's. (Two sturdy affairs). One log home, c. 1900's. Two frame stores on north, four frame stores on south side of main street. Stables unused, unmodified. Log home has slight alteration and additions for contemporary use. Frame stores show continued, sporadic use, but substantially unchanged on exteriors. Natural integrity good. Highway 43 and a small number of phones, local power lines are the only intrusions. Note: interesting old stone and mortar power-house and dam on Big Hole River, about 2 miles east of Dewey. Also, old RR roadbed on north side of canyon, with tunnels.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Development of any kind except possible roadside signing seems unlikely.

Transmission Line Impact:

Minimal due to other intrusions by existing lines.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggin's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolle, Muriel S. Montana Rav Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns. Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Melrose:

This town developed as a railroad center in the 1880's for the surrounding mining country. Now it is primarily a service community for ranching activities in the area.

Location: T. 2 S., R. 9 W.

Description:

Many old structures, perhaps 50-60. Although a functioning community, many retain appearance of 19th century and early 20th century. Many are of log and largely residences. There are, however, some brick merchandising stores and a few homes; and some frame structures of both uses. Evidently a wealthy little town once, supported by the railroad and mining. Integrity fair to poor. RR tracks down center of town, with all RR structures removed. Freeway to east. Old highway to immediate east. Some modern housing and other related features.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

This is an active and functioning community, and little interest seems evident in historic preservation here.

Transmission Line Impact: minimal

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggin's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolle, Muriel S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Jefferson Valley/Silver Star:

This mining district is one of the oldest in the state, experiencing a boom in quartz lode mining around 1866-1872. Two later periods of development came in the early 1880's and again from 1896-1918.

Location: T. 2 S., R. 6 W.

Description:

Though the town is quite old, c. 1869, it bears little remnants of its former structural self. What remains are limited or so modified as to be questionable in historical significance. Likewise, some portions of Jefferson Valley are somewhat altered by "modern improvements". One architectural feature of importance is a barn somewhat north on Silver Star.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

There is very little of significance to work with here, and we doubt that this site would merit more than roadside signing.

Transmission Line Impact:

In view of the much disturbed and modified site, the impact would be minimal.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggings, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolle, Murial S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Hecla/Trapper/Lion Mine/Lion City:

This was a major silver/lead mining camp from 1877-1904, during its period one of the significant ones in the state.

Location: T. 3 S., R. 11 W.

Description:

Trapper Mine: closed! Preparations under way for active mining.

Hecla Mine: and mill: many log buildings, perhaps 30. Most of construction or modification relating to the early 20th century. Some are covered with siding, but most in rough log construction. Many retain cardboard or textile insulation. Hecla mill structure of frame and board, in good condition. Fine natural integrity. Some sign of digging but on-site owner prevents what he can. Preparations under way to actively mine area.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

In view of the renewal of mining activity here the prospects for preservation and development of any kind would appear very slim.

Transmission Line Intract:

Minimal in view of the mining activity that appears to be under way.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggin's, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolle, Muriel S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.

Norris:

• This was the business center for four mining districts in the surrounding country from 1864 to the early 1930's.

Location: T. 3 S., R. 1 W.

Description:

Traces of relatively late 19th century use, but a bit more early 20th century remains. For example a frame hotel (burned at 2nd story) and frame "saloon" remain which smack of the 1910's emulation of the earlier 19th century false fronts, etc. Mainly a ranching service center, but a limited one at that. Low-quality modern improvements moves the town.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Very little prospect for development here.

Transmission Line Impact:

Minimal in view of few historic survivals and general condition of town.

References:

Davis, Jean. Shallow Diggins, Caxton, Caldwell, Idaho, 1962.

Wolle, Muriel S. Montana Pay Dirt, Sage Books, Chicago, 1967.

Florin, Lambert. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming Ghost Towns. Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1971.



### Military Sites

The Army's presence in Montana before the Civil War was very limited, and associated with surveying and road building activities. The coming of mining settlements at first brought little change. Then the miners began to push eastward into the fringes of the Rockies and out to the little ranges in the plains. This eastward moving frontier ran up against a westward moving wave of Indian displacement. In the period 1864-65 skirmishes became a regular feature of travel on the Bozeman Trail, the Carroll Trail and other routes into Montana.

In 1867, the Acting Governor, Thomas Meagher called up and organized a force of militia who patrolled and built posts on the territory's eastern frontier. Later that year the regular army began to come in force, and for the next thirty years the Army maintained a major effort in the region by garrisoning sizeable posts and mounting extensive campaigns. By 1878 most of the territory's Indians were on reservations, though the army devoted considerable effort in patrols to keep them there.

There are numerous historic battlefields, forts and camp sites within the study area.

### Rosebud Battlefield:

This site saw one of the major battles of the Indian Wars, when around 1,500 Sioux and Cheyenne fighting men deliberately sought out and attacked a force of Cavalry, Infantry, Shoshone and Crow Scouts, Indian auxiliaries of those tribes and civilian employees and auxiliaries totaling around a thousand men on June 17, 1876. Both forces withdrew to their main camps after the engagement, newly impressed with their respective fighting qualities. This site is on the National Register of Historic Places, but is in mixed private, federal and Indian ownership. It is the subject of a major book, (see below).

Location: Sec. 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35, 36 of T. 7 S., R. 39 E., and Sec. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, of T. 7 S., R. 40 E.

### Description:

Several sets of ranch buildings and some hay meadows and small grain fields lie along the lower portions of the Rosebud valley at this point. Most of the battle area is very little changed from its appearance at the time of the fight.

### Potential and Prospect for Development:

Present major land owner and many other interested individuals and organizations would like to see development here commensurate with the site's importance. We believe such development is entirely feasible and that the site would draw considerable visitation from I-90 (30 miles) and from U.S. 212, once such development became well known.

### Transmission Line Impact:

A major transmission line through this area would constitute a serious impact on the visual setting for this particularly historic place. At this moment the site appears in more direct jeopardy from proposed coal-mining developments in the immediate vicinity, but we should not like to see a transmission line here either.

### References:

Vaughn, J.W. With Crook at the Rosebud, Stackpole, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 1956.

Guater Battlefield National Monument:

. This is a major national significance site for the area. Established as a National Cemetery in 1879, the main 600 acre tract also contains a cemetery with graves of other Indian Wars engagements, military posts and more recent wars, along with historic buildings associated with early operation of the Cemetery. A detached unit of 160 acres occupies the center of the Reno/Bentzen fight. While the intervening and peripheral tracts are privately owned, they are the site of key elements of battle action.

Location: T. 3 S., R. 35 E. Almost half of this township was involved in the various phases of the battle.

Description:

Except for roads and historical markers, the entire battle area is quite free from development and constitutes one of the best preserved historic battlefields in the west. Existing development here is well done, and constitutes a substantial federal investment.

Development:

This is already a highly developed site, receiving on the average over 300,000 visitors per year, and having major impact on the tourist trade of the Billings/Hardin/Sheridan area. This is one of the few historic sites in the West that is in itself a semi-destination or destination-attraction for many of its visitors.

Transmission Line Impact:

A transmission line of the type under study would constitute a major visual intrusion and should be kept well outside the visual horizon from this elevated point.

References:

- Dustin, Fred. The Guater Tragedy, Edwards Bros., Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1939.
- Stewart, Edgar I. Guater's Luck, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1956.
- Van de Water, Frederick F. Glory Hunter, Argonaut Press, New York, 1964.

### Canyon Creek Battlefield:

In September of 1877 the main body of Nez Perce Indians fleeing ahead of General O.O. Howard's pursuing troops from the Department of the Columbia descended from the mountains of Yellowstone National Park, and headed north for Canada. Colonel Samuel D. Sturgis and his 7th U.S. Cavalry followed in hot pursuit. Sturgis caught up with the Nez Perce at Canyon Creek, and a sharp fight ensued as the Nez Perce took possession of high points on both sides of a side-canyon and guarded the escape of their women, children and herds. The whole camp escaped from Sturgis and the 7th, but Sturgis's Crow auxiliaries pursued the Nez Perce for several days and stole many of their horses further hampering their attempt to escape.

Location: Sec. 35 and 36, T. 1 N., R. 23 E. and Sec. 1, T. 25, R. 23 E., and Sec. 5, 6, and 8, T. 1 S., R. 24 E.

### Description:

This fight site lies at the end of a good hard-surfaced road 10 miles north of Laurel, Montana and receives reasonably heavy visitation. It is in a picturesque setting, with high rimrocks along the edge of the valley, a nice screen of timber along the creek itself. There are only two sets of farm buildings within the greater battle-area, and the farm land is in wheat and thus not unduly intrusive in appearance or activity. A county road winds up the ravine used by the Nez Perce as an escape route.

### Potential and Prospect for Development:

The entire fight could be easily interpreted by roadside displays. The topography lends itself well to outdoor recreation with good potential for hiking trails. The site contains a mixture of state and private land. The recreational potential of the area is high, and the supply of comparable developed recreation in Billings Urban Area is relatively low. We feel there is a good long range prospect for a historical park here.

### Transmission Line Impact:

If a transmission line must pass through this general area, we would recommend that it be to the north of the rimrocks, beyond the visual horizon for this site.

References:

Brown, Mark M., Flight of the Nez Perce. Putnam, New York, 1967.

7th Cavalry Fight Site, 11 August 1873:

In the summer of 1873 ten companies of the 7th U.S. Cavalry, commanded by Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer were serving as escort to survey parties for the Northern Pacific Railroad. They had several skirmishes at points farther down the Yellowstone but fought a fairly substantial engagement at this point. This site could be the subject of considerable public interest as it is one of the half-dozen engagements with Indians in which Custer participated in his career in the west.

Location: Sec. 14, T. 5 N., R. 35 E.

Description of the Site:

Bottomland portions of the site are now farmed. The upland high points are grazing land and largely undisturbed. The high point overlooking the river provides a panoramic view of almost all of the historic sites in this vicinity. Site is in private ownership.

Interpretive Potential and Prospects:

Centrally located in the grouping of sites around the mouth of the Big Horn, this site has considerable interpretive potential, for a roadside interpretive display at the least.

Transmission Line Impact:

In view of the total historic resources grouped around the mouth of the Big Horn, we believe the proposed line should avoid this area.

References:

Stewart, Edgar I. Custer's Luck, Oklahoma University Press, 1956.

Braden, Lt. Charles. "Experiences of Lt. Charles Braden on the Yellowstone Expedition of 1873," Journal of the U.S. Cavalry Association, 1904.

Stanley, David S. Personal Memoirs of General David S. Stanley, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1917.

Fort Benton:

The town of Fort Benton has a long history of fur trade, military, and commercial development as it was the ultimate head of steamboat navigation on the Missouri River.

Location: Sec 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, T. 24 N., R. 8 E.

Description:

The community contains the sites of Fort Campbell, an 1846 trading post, Fort LaBarge an 1862 trading post, Fort Benton military and trading post, 1847-1881, plus numerous buildings associated with the later commercial history of the town.

Prospect and Potential for Development:

The town has an excellent partial reconstruction of Fort Benton trading post in the city park. General attitude toward historic preservation is good, and several structures in the town are on the state historic sites inventory including the I.G. Baker & Co. warehouse.

Transmission Line Impact:

The town is so situated that a major transmission line crossing the river here or passing over the bluffs that nearly surround the town would be a major visual intrusion on the community's historic resources.

References:

Sunder, John. Fur Trade of the Upper Missouri, 1840-1865, Oklahoma University Press, Norman, 1965.

Koury, Michael, Military Posts of Montana, Old Army Press, Bellevue, Nebraska, 1970.

Custer Expedition Campsite, 23 June 1876:

Here the 7th Cavalry camped the night of June 23, 1876, just two days before their ill-fated encounter at the Little Bighorn.

Location: T. 1 S., R. 41 E.

Description:

Site is a broad terrace overlooking Rosebud Creek immediately adjacent the highway. Site has a historical marker near the road. The site is still in native grasses, undisturbed. Campsite confirmed by the work of several scholars and by artifact finds there over the years. Site is on private land.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

This is one of the best places for seeing the kind of country Custer's men saw with a very minimum of present visual intrusions. We believe that such a site has considerable potential for roadside interpretation and that the background scenery needs to be preserved in order to make this effective.

Transmission Line Impact:

A major transmission line within view of this site would be very intrusive visually. We recommend keeping any line well outside the visual horizon to the northwest.

References:

Dustin, Fred. The Custer Tragedy, Edwards, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1939.

Stewart, Edgar I. Custer's Luck, Oklahoma University Press, Norman, 1956.



Terry/Custer Expedition Campsite, June 21-22, 1876:

This site was the point at which the expedition camped while Terry, Custer and others conferred about further plans for the campaign. It was here that Terry made the decision to send Custer off up the Rosebud in a movement generally coordinated with that of the rest of the expedition. This was the point at which the last-minute preparations for combat were made, and the last mail sent off from the 7th Cavalry. Here the regiment held its last parade and marched away toward the country believed occupied by the hostile Sioux. Three days later over a third of the men of the regiment died on the Little Bighorn.

Location: Sec. 15 T. 6 N., R. 42 E.

Description:

Unaltered portions of the site lie between the Northern Pacific Railroad grade and the Yellowstone River in this area. Site is an attractive tract of pasture land, with cottonwoods along the river. It is in private ownership.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Despite the short occupancy by troops of the expedition, from our experience at other such sites, we expect it possible to recover artifactual evidence from the camp. This site is one of the least disturbed in the area, and has high potential for recreational as well as historical development.

Transmission Line Impact:

The site is one of potential national interest. This combined with the attractive setting and good recreational potential make it seem desirable that any transmission line avoid the site by at least two miles (except on the south where terrain screening may be possible).

References:

- Dustin, Fred. The Custer Tragedy, Edwards Bros., Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1939.
- Stewart, Edgar I. Custer's Luck, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1955.

Custer Expedition Camp Site, June 24, 1876:

This site, just northwest of Busby was the expedition's last camp site prior to its ill-fated encounter with the Sioux and Cheyennes the following day on the Little Big Horn. The site is well-known, and attention of travelers is directed to it by signs along the highway in Busby.

Location: Sec. 30-31, T. 3 S., R. 39 E.

Description:

Site is grassland, substantially unchanged from its 1876 appearance, except for the town in the background. Site is in private ownership. Site location is known from maps, from data obtained by scholars from contemporary informants, and has been confirmed by numerous artifact finds on the site over the years.

Development Potential and Prospect:

Site now has a roadside marker on U.S. 212. There would appear to be the potential for a more extensive roadside development here in view of the close proximity to Custer Battlefield.

Transmission Line Impact:

Due to considerable national interest in this site and its close association with the story at Custer Battlefield National Monument (only 26 miles away on U.S. 212), we believe this site should be kept as free as possible from visual intrusions such as the transmission line.

References:

Dustin, Fred. The Custer Tragedy, Edwards, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1939.

Stewart, Edgar I. Custer's Luck, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1956.

Hayfield Fight:

On August 1, 1867, a small force of soldiers and civilian wood cutters were besieged here by a large number of Sioux and Cheyenne Warriors. They beat off the Indian attacks for about three hours until a relief party from Fort C.F. Smith reached their position and drove away the Indians. This was one of the epic fights of the decade of the '60's in the West, and along with the Wagon Box Fight in Wyoming the next day, it marked the army's swift recovery from the Fetterman disaster of the previous winter.

Location: Sec. 31, T. 5 S., R. 32 E.

Description:

The location shown on our maps and in our photos is the correct one from all accounts, but the terrain here has been greatly changed by irrigation ditches, land leveling and road construction.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

This area is almost certain to be the subject of a substantial roadside interpretive development as a satellite of Big Horn Canyon National Recreation area some four miles away.

Transmission Line Impact:

A major transmission line would cause significant visual intrusion if it were within the visual horizon of this site. The site of such high national significance that direct disturbance of the site would meet with considerable opposition.

References:

Vaughn, J.W. Indian Fights, Oklahoma University Press, Norman, 1966.

Mattes, Merrill J. Indians, Infants and Infancy, Old West, Denver, 1960.

Miles Fight on Tongue River (Pyramid Butte Battlefield):

This is the location of a major battle between troops of the 5th U.S. Infantry under Col. Nelson Miles and Sioux Indians on January 8, 1877. It resulted in the retreat of a large number of former hostiles to surrender at the agencies in Dakota and Nebraska.

Location: Sec. 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, T. 6 S., R. 42 E.

Description:

Battlefield lies along the stream terraces and hills lying east of Tongue River. Site is traversed by a graveled road, but it is otherwise little changed since the fight, remaining in native range vegetation of grass and sage brush, with a thin scattering of cedar on the ridges. One of the best preserved battlefields of the Indian Wars. Site is in private ownership.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Continual road improvement along with the prospect of a rapidly expanding population in the region make it highly probable that there will eventually be some kind of action to preserve and interpret this well-known site. The battle has been intensively studied on the ground by several of the best of Indian Wars historians, and two substantial papers about it have reached publication.

Transmission Line Impact:

A major transmission line would constitute a severe visual impact on a site such as this, and we would recommend that no such line approach within two miles of the site.

References:

Erlanson, Charles B. Battle of the Butte, Sheridan, Wyoming, 1963.

Rickey, Dr. Don Jr., "The Battle of Wolf Mountain," Montana Magazine, Vol. XIII #2, (Spring, 1963), pp. 44-54.

Rawn/Nez Perce Confrontation ("Fort Fizzle"):

When the Nez Perce Indians came over the Lolo Trail toward the Bitterroot valley, they found their way blocked by Captain C.C. Rawn of the 7th Infantry with a small force of troops and civilian volunteers. Badly outnumbered, Rawn's men let the Nez Perce pass, hence the nickname assigned to his earthworks by the civilians of the area.

Location: T. 12 N., R. 19 W.

Description:

Site is just off the highway, and well marked by the forest service. No physical evidence of Rawn's earth and log breastworks remains here. Good archeological work might pinpoint their location, however.

Development potential and prospect:

The highway and one small powerline are the only intrusive developments in the Lolo Creek valley. The highway here is coincident with the Lolo Trail. The site has excellent recreational potential and the potential for updated and expanded interpretive signing.

Transmission line impact:

We believe the combination of natural setting, recreational potential and historic associations make this a site which a major power line should avoid intruding upon visually.

References:

Brown, Mark H. Flight of the Nez Perce, Putnam, New York, 1962.

Fort Logan (Camp Baker II):

This post replaced a temporary camp located 10 miles downstream from this location on Smith River. It was located at a veritable crossroads of routes favored by the various Indians of the region for their intertribal raids. The post was occupied from 1870 to 1880, the major period of Indian hostilities in the region. Site has been nominated for the National Register.

Location: Sec. 25, T. 11 N., R. 4 E.

Description:

A log blockhouse is the most outstanding survival. This was one of the last such structures to be built in the west (1870), and certainly one of the few surviving in the entire country. As such it is in itself a significant piece of historic architecture. Several other post buildings survive in current use as ranch buildings. The primary intrusive development has occurred within the past few years, when a road was constructed diagonally through the post without regard to the significance or historic or architectural values involved, and without salvage archeology in advance of the construction.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

This is one of Montana's choicest sets of surviving buildings, and it should rate very high on the development priority list for historic sites in the state.

Transmission Line Impact:

A major transmission line here would have critical visual impact if located within the visual horizon of this site.

References:

Koury, Michael J. Military Posts of Montana, Old Army Press, Bellevue, Nebraska, 1970.

Outline Description of the Posts in the Military Division of the Missouri, Chicago, 1876.

Fort Maginnis:

This post was established in 1883 as a result of political action by Granville Stuart, Martin Maginnis and others to secure military protection for their ranching activities (The DHS ranch nearby). When the post was established, however, its military reservation covered much of the country the ranchers had used for hay meadows, and continuous friction developed. The post was substantial in size, and expensive to maintain in this remote location. It was finally abandoned in 1890.

Location: SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  & SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of SE  $\frac{1}{9}$  Sec. 35, T. 17 N, R. 20 E. plus lots 3 and 4 of S  $\frac{1}{2}$  of NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 1, T. 16 N. R. 20 E.

Description:

Fort Maginnis was dismantled for salvage by settlers and others from as far away as Lewistown. Only foundation ruins remain. The surrounding country has not changed materially since the days when the fort was occupied.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Fort Maginnis is today a state-owned historic site, so the prospect of preservation and interpretation of the property is at least present. The site is under the jurisdiction of the Montana State Land Board and is leased to the Montana Fish and Game Commission. There are no immediate development plans in either agency, however.

Transmission Line Impact:

In view of state ownership and prospects for future development, we recommend that the line stay outside the visual horizon from this site, say two miles except where adequate terrain screening can be achieved.

References:

Koury, Michael J. Military Posts of Montana, Old Army Press, Bellevue, Nebraska, 1970.

Chittenden, Hiram M. American Fur Trade of the Far West,  
3 vols., New York, F.P. Harper, 1902.

Phillips, Paul G. The Fur Trade, Norman, Oklahoma  
University Press, 1961.



Fort Shaw, 1867-1891:

This was the major military post in the country of the Blackfeet during these years. Subsequently it was used as an Indian school. Part of the surviving structures are those of the military post, a few were built for school purposes.

Location: Sec. 1, 2, 11, 12, T. 20 N., R. 2 W.

Description:

Buildings are among the outstanding survivals from Indian Wars army posts in the high plains. This is perhaps Montana's outstanding Indian Wars army post in the amount and quality of survivals.

Development Potential and Prospect:

This property has outstanding potential for a major restoration, refurbishing and interpretive project along the lines of others such as Fort Laramie. It is located within reach of major tourist routes in the region.

Transmission Line Impact:

We believe that such a line should not approach closer than two miles to this site.

References:

Koury, Michael J. Military Posts of Montana, Old Army Press, Bellevue, Nebraska, 1970.

Fort Ellis: (Camp Elizabeth Meagher):

This post was founded by the Montana Militia in 1867 as their main base of operations, supportive to their outlying posts of Camp Ida Thoroughman at the mouth of the Shields River and Camp Neal Howie at the forks of the Musselshell. Camp Meagher was a stockaded post. When regular army units arrived later in 1867 to establish Fort Ellis, they moved into the militia stockade to construct their first buildings. Fort Ellis went through an almost continuous process of remodeling and replacement of buildings, removal of the stockade and general expansion. For much of its life it was the most important post on the Montana frontier. The post was abandoned in 1886.

Location: Sec. 15, T. 2 S., R. 6 E.

Description:

No original buildings remain at the Ft. Ellis site today. The site is occupied by the USDA Experiment Station and the Mount Ellis Academy. Most of the site has been farmed intensively, limiting the degree to which archeology on site could be of value.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Presently a Montana Highway Department historical marker is the only indication of the post's location. Despite the level of importance of this major post, expanded roadside interpretation is the only really probable level of development that could be expected here.

Transmission Line Impact:

A major transmission line here would make it still more difficult for the viewer to reconstruct the extensive historic scene. Impact of such a line would have to be considered moderate in view of the site condition and other existing developments.

References:

Koury, Michael J. Military Posts of Montana, Old Army Press, Bellevue, Nebraska, 1970.

Topping, E.S., (R.A. Murray, ed.). Chronicles of the Yellowstone, Ross & Haines, Minneapolis, 1968.

notes in the Aubrey Haines Collection, Bozeman, Montana.

Potential Historic District at the Mouth of Judith River:

This is an especially concentrated area of historic activity, with some sites on both sides of the rivers involved. Major sites are:

Fort F.A. Chardon, an "Upper Missouri Outfit" American Fur Company Post of 1843-1844.

Located: SW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 23, T. 23 N., R. 16 E.

Site has been confirmed by surface evidence, but not archeologically investigated. Site is presently a hayfield.

Camp Cooke: A military Post built in 1866 and abandoned in the spring of 1870. The post proved poorly situated with regard to the developing transportation routes of the region. Located in Sec 27, T. 23 N., R. 16 E.

"Judith City/Port Clagett/Clagett Trading Post and P.O."

These sites represent civilian attempts to utilize the abandoned Camp Cooke in various ways. Judith City and "Fort Clagett" were commercial establishments in the old military buildings. These lasted from only 1870 to 1872, when the traders consolidated their holdings into a small post built of salvaged materials to the east across the Judith as Clagett Trading Post and Post Office. Even this was abandoned in 1876. This trading post was in Sec. 26, T. 23 N., R. 16 E.

Treaty Negotiation Sites: About a mile further downstream on the north shore is a tract in Sec. 25, T. 23 N., R. 16 W. that served as a site for 1846 and 1855 treaty negotiations with the Indians of the region. Lewis and Clark also probably camped on this site on 28-29 May 1805.

Development Potential and Prospect:

These sites are very difficult to reach today, by land transportation. One must take a different road out of Winifred if he wishes to reach the Clagett P.O. Site than if he wishes to reach the Camp Cooke site just across the Judith. A still different circuitous route is necessary if one wishes to reach the sites north of the Missouri. The best access to all these sites is via one of the cruise boats working this wild-river stretch of the Missouri. With a view to future vacation patterns in the region, we

would forecast a steadily increasing popularity for these river trips.

Transmission Line Impact:

As with other areas along the river from Fort Benton to the Fred Robinson Bridge, we believe that any transmission line should stay well back from the river or should effect a crossing at a point that will provide minimum impact on all kinds of resources. We would say the concentration of historic resources at this point at the mouth of the Judith is such that a line should avoid it completely.

References:

Koury, Michael J. Military Posts of Montana, Old Army Press, Bellevue, Nebraska, 1970.

Sunder, John. Fur Trade on the Upper Missouri, 1840-1865, Oklahoma University Press, 1965.

Old Camp Baker:

, Predecessor to the Fort Logan/Camp Baker site described elsewhere in this report, Old Camp Baker was a temporary outpost of Fort Ellis, located about ten miles downstream on Smith River from the later Camp Baker that became Fort Logan. This post was occupied during 1869 and early 1870. It was placed here to interfere with the movement of various Indians, who in the course of their intertribal raids were not adverse to preying upon miners, prospectors and ranchmen of the region.

Location: Precise location not confirmed by field checks, as roads were impossible during our field work, but the approximate location is at a crossing of Smith River on an old ranch trail in Sec. 24-25 of T. 12 N., R. 4 E.

Description:

No surviving remains are reported at this site, but there would seem to be the prospect for effective archeology at such a remote and little-known site.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Cannot be properly evaluated without archeology and site reconnaissance plus additional archival research. The post fulfilled an important role or it would not have been replaced by a permanent post a relatively short distance away in a better location for communications and logistics.

Transmission Line Impact:

Any line construction in this area should make adequate provision for an archeological survey of this site. Line should probably stay outside the visual horizon for this site pending such investigations.

References:

Koury, Michael J. Military Posts of Montana, Old Army Press, Bellevue, Nebraska, 1970.

Camp Neal Howie (Fort Howie):

A temporary outpost of the Montana Militia during their period of service when called up by Acting Governor Thomas Meagher, in 1867. Occupied by them only for one season as a base of operations for guarding the Carrol Road, one branch of which passes the post.

Location: Sec. 19, T. 9 N., R. 11 E.

Description:

The site is relatively inaccessible, being across the creek from U.S. Highway 12. There is extensive surface evidence of occupancy, some of which probably dates from the militia period, some of which may date from subsequent ranching use of the site. No structures remain on the site.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

This site needs good archeology to determine the extent and nature of structures, in so far as can be determined, the militiamen kept no detailed plan of the post. Site has some development potential if access can be gained and private owner's cooperation secured. The Montana Militia of 1867 was a particularly turbulent and colorful unit, and their story is largely untold. This is the only one of their three posts whose site has not been heavily overrun by later development.

Transmission Line Impact:

This site has sufficient state historic significance that we believe any line should stay outside the visual horizon of it, preferably to the west of U.S. 12.

References:

- Topping, E.S., (R.A. Murray, ed.). Chronicles of the Yellowstone, Ross and Haines, Minneapolis, 1968.
- Barness, John and Dickenson, William, "Minutemen of Montana," Montana Magazine, Vol. 10, #2, April, 1960, pp. 2-6.
- Athearn, Robert G. "The Montana Volunteers of 1867," Pacific Historical Review, Vol. 19, #2, May 1950, pp. 127-136.

Camp Ida Thoroughman:

\* At this site a military post was built and garrisoned by the Montana Militia during the period in which they were called up by Acting Governor Thomas Meagher in 1867. The buildings of the post were given some use by emigrants and settlers in later years, most of them being dismantled for salvage. One structure remained standing until about 40 years ago. At one time the State of Montana maintained a work-camp for prisoners here when the "convict grade" along the north side of the Yellowstone east of here was under construction.

Location: N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 26, T. 1 S., R. 10 E.

Description:

All buildings of the post are now gone. Part of the site has been overrun by the later Myers Ranch buildings. At least a portion of the site may be well preserved archeologically. Setting is an attractive one on grass-land and cottonwood timbered terrain at the junction of Shields River and the Yellowstone.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Site would appear to have a combination of historic associations and physical setting that would make it an attractive recreation site, but we know of no direct interest by private parties or governmental units in making such use of it.

Transmission Line Impact:

We believe that a major transmission line here would constitute a substantial visual intrusion on this site in this attractive setting.

References:

- Topping, E.S., (R.A. Murray, ed.) Chronicles of the Yellowstone, Ross & Haines, Minneapolis, 1968.
- Baranoss, John, and Dickenson, William. "Minutemen of Montana," Montana Magazine, Vol. 10, #2, April 1960, pp. 2-9.
- Athearn, Robert G. "The Montana Volunteers of 1867," Pacific Historical Review, Vol. 19, #2, May 1950, pp. 127-136.

Lame Deer Fight Site:

In May of 1877, troops led by Col. Nelson Miles, 5th Infantry and Cheyenne Scouts led by White Bull fought a brief and decisive engagement here with a band of Minniconjou Sioux under Lame Deer. In the course of the fight, White Bull, the Cheyenne leader, saved Col. Miles life. Fight is remembered in Cheyenne tradition as one of the several important ones in which the Cheyennes fought alongside the army, against their one-time Sioux allies.

Location: N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 33, T. 2 S., R. 41 E.

Description:

Fight site along Lame Deer Creek lies north of the built up area of the Lame Deer community, and preserves most of its natural setting. A related site, the grave of the Sioux leader, Lame Deer, is on a hill just southwest of town.

Development Potential and Prospect:

This site is a good candidate for roadside interpretation. Most of the site is undisturbed and a good exhibit could recreate the historic action effectively here. Possibly the Cheyennes themselves would be interested in this in view of their key role in the fight.

Transmission Line Impact:

Due to rough terrain here, it would be relatively easy to achieve terrain screening from this site and the rest of the Lame Deer Community.

References:

- Grinnell, George B. By Cheyenne Campfires, Yale University Press, 1923.
- Grinnell, George B. The Fighting Cheyennes, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1956.



Head Chief/Young Mule Fight Site:

Here, two young Cheyennes implicated in the killing of a white rancher's son deliberately challenged and attacked a company of soldiers from Camp Merritt and were killed in the ensuing fight. This fight was the last open conflict between any of the Cheyennes and the army.

Location: N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 34, T. 2 S., R. 41 E.

Description:

Site extends up over the large hill directly east of the agency buildings, and down toward the sawmill east of town. Most of the site is undisturbed, and here Cheyenne traditionalists have placed stone markers to show the course of the fight. Visual setting is good to all directions except the west and southwest.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

If this site can be preserved against the encroachment of the expanding community it would be desirable to do so in the interest of preserving a site well documented historically as well as strong in Cheyenne tradition. We would consider tribal development of this site feasible, and highly possible.

Transmission Line Impact:

A major transmission line at this area would constitute a significant visual intrusion on this site as well as those of the Lane Deer Fight, Camp Merritt and the Tongue River Agency nearby.

References:

- Liberty, Margot. "I will Play With the Soldiers,"  
Montana Magazine, Vol. 14 (1964), Autumn, pp. 16-26.
- Stands-in-Winter, John, and Liberty, Margot. Cheyenne Memories, Yale University Press, 1967.

Camp Merritt, 1890-1898:

The Ghost Dance excitement on the western reservations, coupled with the general tension surrounding conflicts between cattlemen and the Cheyennes led to the stationing of troops at Lane Deer. Initially their post, Camp Merritt was an independent post, and later it was a sub-post of Fort Keogh.

Location: S.E. 1/4, Sec. 28, T. 2 S., R. 41 E.

Description:

Detailed plans of the post are preserved in the National Archives, and photo copies are on file in Montana Historical Society and in the Western Interpretive Services Collection. Nothing today remains of this two company post, buildings having been used for salvage by the Indian Bureau and by the Indians after their abandonment.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

This site would be a good candidate for roadside interpretation, and there would appear to be some possibility that either the state or the Cheyennes might be interested in this as a part of tourism development on the reservation.

Transmission Line Impact:

A transmission line through this area would constitute a significant adverse impact. We believe that a line could, however bypass the entire concentration of historic sites around the Lane Deer Community with good terrain screening and not be visible from the community.

References:

Ground Plan of Camp Merritt, National Archives.

Frucha, Francis Paul. Guide to the Military Posts of the United States, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, 1964.

Stands-in-Timber, John, and Liberty, Margot. Cheyenne Memories, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1967.

Yellowstone Wagon Road and Prospecting Expedition Sites:

Late in the winter of 1874 rumors of placer gold discoveries on Rosebud Creek aroused considerable interest in Bozeman. In this same period there was interest in developing a wagon-road to the head of navigation on the Yellowstone. Seeing the opportunity to combine the investigation of both projects, Bozeman Merchants organized the "Yellowstone Wagon Road and Prospecting Expedition." From the organization and activities of the group it seems plausible that they also hoped to start an Indian war and draw in the army to clear the plains for settlement! The force numbered 149 men, mostly seasoned frontiersmen. They set out from Bozeman on February 11th, with a considerable wagon train, two pieces of artillery, new ,50-70 Springfields from the stores of the Montana Militia, and plenty of supplies and ammunition.

The party fortified their camps each night along the Rosebud, and had several really substantial fights with the Sioux and Cheyennes. A number of these camp and battle sites have been found. They are:

Fight of 25 March 1874: Located in S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 3, T. 1 S., R. 43 E.

Camp of 29 March 1874: Sec. 28, T. 4 S., R. 37 E.

Fight of 30 March 1874: Sec. 13, T. 5 S., R. 36 E.

Camp of 31 March 1874: Sec. 13, T. 6 S., R. 35 E.

Camp of 1 April and Fight of 2 April, 1874: Sec. 28, 29, T. 6 S., R. 35 E.

Description of Sites:

All of the above sites are well preserved except that of 31 March, which has been damaged by gravel removal operations. Otherwise the sites are on well-grassed prairie, and the turf has preserved the outlines of the rifle pits. In some cases stone breastworks still stand. All sites have been tested in the past (late 1950's) by competent investigators and confirming artifacts definitely associated with the expedition found. All, so far as we can determine, are on privately owned land.

Development Potential and Prospect:

. Most of the sites are easily accessible from existing roads and trails. In the present day context they are vulnerable to vandalism and difficult to protect. At some future date development might be feasible.

Transmission Line Impact:

In view of the good condition of most of these sites, we believe that a transmission line should stay beyond their visual horizon.

References:

Topping, E.S. (Robert A. Murray, ed.). Chronicles of the Yellowstone. Ross & Haines, Minneapolis, 1968.

Terry's Landing:

This small military post was built in the summer of 1877. The site was selected by General Alfred Terry, Commanding General, Department of Dakota on the same trip on which he selected the site for Fort Custer. This post was intended to serve as the steamboat landing for supplies destined for Fort Custer during the major portion of the navigation season in which steamers could not ascend the Big Horn to that post. The post consisted of barracks for two companies of infantry, officers quarters, warehouses for supplies, and the steamboat landing itself. The post was occupied until the summer of 1882, when completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad to this point ended the dependence of the army on steamboat traffic. During the five years it was in use, the post was of real significance in a broad region, since it served not only Fort Custer but points as far away as Fort McKinney (near Buffalo, Wyoming).

Location: W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 31, T. 5 N., R. 34 E.

Description of Site:

Site lies at the downstream end of a sizeable piece of bottomland along the Yellowstone. The railroad in both its original grade and in subsequent enlargements and improvements of the grade has destroyed the site of the steamboat landing and adjacent portions of the post. Settlers removed the logs and other construction materials of most of the buildings. Within the past year, a segment of Interstate Highway 94 has been built across the south end of the site. South of the Interstate lie two frame buildings in advanced stages of deterioration. Some informants have assumed these were survivals from the post, but they are much later period farm buildings.

Interpretive potential and prospects:

With surviving portions of the site located between the main NFR line and the Interstate Highway, access is very difficult. The probability of on-site development of any kind would seem very low. The site, like some others farther downstream around the mouth of the Bighorn might be better interpreted by a central facility of some kind adjacent the interchange several miles to the east.

Transmission Line Impact:

Impact on an isolated and disturbed site such as this might in itself be minimal, but we feel that this site and that of Junction City to the north across the river together constitute the upstream end of what might be developed into a historic district around a development as indicated above. In such a circumstance the line should avoid it. If the line has to go this way, then the usual preliminary archeological survey and salvage archeology should be conducted on the remnants of the site.

References:

Koury, Michael J. Military Posts of Montana, Old Army Press, Bellevue, Nebraska, 1970.

Topping, E.S. (R.A. Murray, ed.). Chronicles of the Yellowstone, Ross & Haines, Minneapolis, 1968.

Site Plan of Terry's Landing, Montana Room, Billings Public Library.

Fort Custer:

This post was established on July 4, 1877, as one of the new group of military posts intended as bases from which the army could patrol the northern plains to prevent the Indians of the region from wandering away from their reservations to resume their old way of life.

Soldiers and Crow Scouts from this post played a key part in breaking up the established pattern of intertribal horse-raids between the Crows and the Blackfeet, and between the Blackfeet and the Northern Cheyennes. A force from Fort Custer was the first on hand to prevent an uprising as a result of the Sword Bearer Incident in 1887.

Fort Custer was abandoned in 1898, when its troops were called away to the War with Spain. Salvage from buildings at the post supplied lumber for much construction at Crow Agency, 13 miles to the south, and at farms and ranches springing up in the vicinity.

Location: Sec. 19, T. 1 S., R. 33 E.

Site Condition:

Fifteen years ago a sand-green golf course covered part of the site. Old building sites and foundations only added hazards in the rough. Since the abandonment of the golf course and the recent lifting of wheat acreage allotments, the owners have broken up most of the tract for additional dryland farming ground. A line of broken stone and mortar in the ground is all that marks the old barracks line and other building sites around the parade. A microwave reflector has recently been erected on the site.

Development Potential and Prospects:

The site is an attractive one, overlooking the junction of the two streams and the intensively developed farmlands across the Big Horn along with the town of Hardin. It is easily accessible by about a mile of blacktop frontage road plus about half a mile of gravel road from the nearest interchange off I-90.

Considering that so very little remains of the fort, and in view of its present private ownership we believe that the site has little actual prospect to be developed.

### Transmission Line Impact:

In view of the high location of this site, a major transmission line would be a considerable visual intrusion anywhere within two miles (except directly past the site on either of the valley floors). The effect and importance of this intrusion would be directly dependant on whether anything is ever done to make the site more attractive to and more accessible to visitors.

### References:

Koury, Michael J. Military Posts of Montana, Old Army Press, Fort Collins, Colorado, 1970.

Prucha, Francis P. Guide to the Military Posts of the United States, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1964.

Upton, Richard. Fort Custer on the Big Horn, 1877-1890, Arthur H. Clark Co., Glendale, Calif., 1973.



Far West Island:

This island in the Big Horn River marks the historic upper limit of steamboat navigation on the river. The Steamboat Far West turned around at this point when accompanying the Terry/Gibbon Column in the May/June campaign of 1876.

Location: Sec. 29, T. 2 S., R. 33 E.

Description:

The island is covered with a growth of cottonwood and willow, and is generally unchanged since 1876.

Prospect and Potential for Development:

The river in this area sees considerable use by fishermen. Access is by boat. The island has considerable recreation potential if it were developed by the owner or by a public agency.

Transmission Line Impact:

Irrigated farming is the only disturbance of the river bottom to date, and the island is visually isolated from much of this by streamside growth. We believe that a transmission line hereshould be kept outside the view from the island and the nearby river banks.

References:

- Dustin, Fred. The Custer Tragedy, Edwards, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1939.
- Stewart, Edgar I. Custer's Luck, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1956.

Baker's Battleground:

Here on August 14, 1872, a mixed force of infantry and cavalry escorting a Northern Pacific Railroad survey expedition under the command of Major Eugene M. Baker were attacked by a large number of Sioux. The troops successfully beat off the attack.

Location: Sec. 5 and 6, T. 1 N., R. 27 E.

Description:

Site consists of a low lying area within what was once an old cut-off bend of the Yellowstone. The area has largely been land-leveled for irrigation.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

The site is isolated from the main flow of traffic through the area. Part of the site is visible from I-94, but there is no rest area or other stopping point nearby. This is one of the sites peripheral to the Billings area that we doubt would be developed unless some major central informational facility were constructed near the interstate near Billings.

Transmission Line Impact:

Transmission line impact at this site would at the most be moderate, though we would favor a crossing point downstream out of view of this site just in case long range development took place.

References:

Record of Encounters with Hostile Indians in the Military Division of the Missouri, Chicago, 1883.

Vestal, Stanley. New Sources of Indian History, Oklahoma University Press, Norman, 1924.

Ilges Fight Site:

After the Nez Perce Indians raided Cow Island Landing (just outside the study area), in September of 1877, they fled northward up Cow Creek Canyon, pursued by troops from Fort Benton under Captain Guido Ilges. This was a running fight, with Nez Perce warriors trying only to delay the troops to prevent their catching up with the retreating camp. The Indians thus escaped Ilges force, but the fight so exhausted them and their horses that they stopped at Snake Creek on the north side of the Bear Paw Mountain divide where Colonel Nelson Miles forces caught them, besieged them, and captured their survivors in the well-known Bear Paw Mountain battle (the site of which is now a state historical park).

Location: T. 25 N., R. 21 E.

Description:

This site is practically unchanged since 1877, and is typical Missouri breaks back country, with grass and sage and some scrub cedar on the slopes. To our knowledge no one has yet worked this site with the ever present metal detectors often used at battlefields. Site is accessible only to the most determined 4-wheel drive operator.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Once the fight has been adequately researched, it would be a natural outlier for the development recently completed at Bear Paw Mountain Battlefield. A jeep tour from Cow Island Landing up Cow Creek past this site and on to Bear Paw Mountain would interest many Indian Wars history buffs.

Transmission Line Impact:

As with the rest of the Missouri Breaks area, we would recommend that a transmission line stay well back away from this zone.

References:

Brown, Mark H. Flight of the Nez Perce, Putnam, New York, 1967.

Baldwin's Fight of 9 March 1880:

In one of the last engagements with the hostile Sioux in Montana, Lt. Frank Baldwin and men of his company of the 5th U.S. Infantry drove off a force of Indians from a Sioux camp and captured their horse herd.

Location: T. 8 and 9 N., R 41 E.

Description:

Fight site is still range land, little changed from its condition at the time of the fight.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

The extreme isolation of this site from traveled routes limits the prospect for any sort of development here.

Transmission Line Impact:

If the line should pass in this vicinity, archeologists working on the survey and salvage operations should be on the alert for any evidence of the camp site or battle.

References:

Miles, Nelson A. Personal Recollections and Observations, Chicago, 1896.

Baldwin, Alice B. Memoirs of the Late Frank D. Baldwin, Major General, U.S.A., Los Angeles, 1929.

Settlement and Development

Montana has numerous sites associated with settlement and development. These range from historic trails and notable physical landmarks for the traveler to steamboat landings, townsites and ranching sites. We discuss the major sites of interest below, but have only marked the landmarks and trails on the maps supplied with our report.

Grant/Kohrs Ranch:

This is one of Montana's major historic sites. Founded by the almost legendary early settler "Johnnie Grant", it covers the entire spectrum of western Montana history from the closing days of the fur trade through the gold rush, mining development and the entire span of the cattle industry history of the region to recent times.

Location: T. 8 N., R. 9 W.

Description:

Many structures contemporary with construction and early use of ranch, c. 1870's - 1890's. A few other structures which appear to be more recent. Intrusions include the railroad tracks, but 30 yards in front of fence surrounding ranch residence, all the ranch operation improvements for modern use, (such as fencing, some structures, etc), and the proximity to the city of Deer Lodge.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

This property is now a National Historic Site, owned and administered by the National Park Service. Site has been master planned for intensive development. It will be one of the major historic site developments in the region.

Transmission Line Impact:

Due to the significance and planned development here, a transmission line should stay beyond the visual horizon of this site.

References:

Stuart, Granville. Forty Years on the Frontier, ed. by Paul C. Phillips, The Arthur H. Clark Co., Glendale, California, 1967

Johnnie Grant Cabin Site:

Ranch and trading post of Johnnie Grant, major pre-gold rush figure in this region of Montana. This site was occupied 1859-1862.

Location: T. 9 N., R. 9 W.

Description:

No discernable physical remains. Marker on site, on west side of road. States this to be the site of the first log cabin built in Deer Lodge County with the date as 1859.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Limited potential for development of substantial nature, but site should be archeologically investigated.

Transmission Line Impact:

Moderate at the most in view of limited development prospects.

References:

Stuart, Granville. Forty Years on the Frontier, ed. by Paul C. Phillips, The Arthur H. Clark Co., Glendale, California, 1967.

#### Whitehall Stage Stations:

. This old town has two surviving stage stations on the Corrine, Utah to Helena, Montana stage route, these date from the 1864-1882 period.

Location: T. 2 N., R. 4 W.

#### Description:

Structure in town - two story log home, still in use. Some modifications on exterior for modern use. Apparently sound condition. Appearance of interior is unknown. Surrounded by variety of 20th century structures, adjacent to school.

Structure north of town - Brooke's Stage Stop, constructed in 1867 and general area of "Old Whitehall", plus "old Whitehall cemetery". Stage station still standing, but in use and modernized considerably on exterior by rear additions plus front porch. Interior also modified with carpeting, etc. Old log building in among ranch outbuildings purportedly first school house in county; moved from original location. Fair condition. Cemetery has Brooke's grave, members of his family and others. Atop small hill due east is Brooke's stone. Natural setting good. Only dirt road and local power and telephone lines.

#### Development potential and Prospects:

Probably limited to preservation in their adaptive use role as residences, with some possibility for street side interpretive signing.

#### Transmission Line Impact:

The station in town would not be visually impacted by a line bypassing the town, but such a line should not be run within view of Brooke's station north of town.

#### References:

Williams, Wanda. "Major Brooke's Hospitable State Station and the Beginnings of Whitehall," Montana Historian, pp. 14-16, Vol. 3 No. 1, Autumn, 1972.



Oil Painting in Whitehall bank on "Whitehall Road House".

Printed copy on original contract (with costs and specs.)  
in Jefferson Valley News.

Pompey's Pillar:

This natural landmark along the Yellowstone is noted in virtually all of the accounts of exploring parties on the Yellowstone. William Clark carved his name on it in 1806. Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and part of the 7th U.S. Cavalry had a skirmish with Indians while camped here in 1873.

Location: Sec. 21, T. 3 N., R. 30 E.

Description:

Pompey's Pillar is a massive block of sandstone left standing by some ancient change in the course of the Yellowstone River. It is surrounded by a small tract in native grasses and cottonwoods. The property was acquired some years ago by the late Don C. Foote of Billings, and has been developed by him and more recently by his widow, into a major point of interest on the Yellowstone. The tract has an information office, picnic ground, self-guided trails and some exhibits. The Footes have endeavored to get the state or the federal government to take the property over, but no agency has come forward seeking it to date.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

The area is of sufficient interest both historically and in the field of natural history that it could be developed much beyond the current level. It seems probable that it may come into public hands within a relatively few years. This property is currently listed in the National Register.

Transmission Line Impact:

A major transmission line at this point would be a significant intrusion on this historic and scenic property. We recommend that a line be kept at least two miles away, but would caution that one of the features of the development here is a walking trail to the top of the rock, so perhaps an extra margin of distance would be advisable.

References:

- Nicholas Biddle, (ed.). The Journals of Lewis and Clark, Heritage Press, N.Y., 1962.
- Vestal, Stanley. New Sources of Indian History, Oklahoma University Press, Norman, 1934.

Hoppe/Countryman Trading Post:

In the early 1880's Horace Countryman and Hugo Hoppe secured a trading license irregularly from a federal judge and set up a whiskey-trading post within the then-limits of the Crow Reservation. During the year it took the Indian Bureau to get the licence invalidated, they profited handsomely from their venture. This post represents a rare type of historic building survival, in Montana.

Location: Sec.14, T. 2 S., R. 19 E.

Description:

The post was a substantial log cabin that later served as a homesteader's residence when the Crows ceded this portion of their reservation for settlement. Preserved as a ranch outbuilding, the post still stands, in fairly good condition.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Present developers of the "Countryman Creek" rural subdivision plan to preserve and interpret the post.

Transmission Line Impact:

A major transmission line would constitute a significant visual intrusion on this historic structure.

References:

Special study on Countryman Creek by Western Interpretive Services for Wirth Associates, 1972.

Moss Apaté Stage Station:

This site was probably a change-of-horses station on the short stage line from the Milwaukee Railroad to White Sulphur Springs prior to the construction of the "White Sulphur Springs and Yellowstone Park Railway". This stage line was probably active from 1876 until the mid 1880's.

Location: Sec. 15, T. 7 N., R. 7 E.

Description:

Only the foundation of the main station building along with the barn still stand at this site. Station is located immediately adjacent the railroad and not far from U.S. 89.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

The location enhances the prospect for development here. Site is probably eligible for National Register listing with local significance. A state or local agency could undoubtedly obtain funds for preservation and development here. At least a roadside interpretive development would seem feasible.

Transmission Line Impact:

Impact on a small site such as this would be moderate if the line were well located. We would suggest that a line through this area should be located well west of Highway 89 to avoid becoming part of the "backdrop" for this site.

References:

field examination and interviews with local informants only.

### Hunter's Hot Springs:

This facility has been in almost continuous operation for over a hundred years. Dr. A.J. Hunter settled here in the early 1870's. More than one prospector and military expedition welcomed a chance to camp here "for a good wash" as one writer put it. At the peak of development in 1909, the Springs boasted a hotel to house 300 guests.

Location: Sec. 9, T. 1 S., R. 12 E.

### Description:

Hunter's Hot Springs is located on an attractive setting on the north side of the Yellowstone Valley. The earlier large hotels were destroyed by fire some years ago, but extensive foundation ruins, ornamental fences and other structural evidence remain. The springs are an active attraction today, though the latest physical plant is modest in comparison to the historic one nearby.

### Potential and Prospect for Development:

Present owners will probably expand their operation when the demand warrants. It would be easy to incorporate some recognition of the area history in such an expansion.

### Transmission Line Impact:

This side of the Yellowstone is generally free from intrusive development in this area, and we feel that a major transmission line should be kept out of view of this historic point.

### References:

Burlingame, Merrill G. "The Andrew Jackson Hunter Family ..." Montana Magazine, Vol. 1, #1, January 1951, pp. 3-13.

Whithorn, Bill and Doris. Montana in the Good Old Days, Pray, Montana, n.d.

Red Bluff Research Station:

\* An Montana State University experimental ranching facility.

Location: T. 6 S., R. 1 E, 5 miles east of Norris.

Description:

Station has an excellent set of stone buildings, a period piece in architecture and a historically significant activity here.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Buildings are in use by the state for their original purpose.

Transmission Line Impact:

A line here would cause a significant intrusion on this setting and activity.

References:

Reconnaissance field notes in our files

"The Castle", at White Sulphur Springs:

This large stone mansion was built in 1892. Classic high-Victorian stone masonry construction. This house is one of the best surviving mansions of the period outside of Montana's major cities.

Location: north edge of town at White Sulphur Springs.

Description:

2  $\frac{1}{2}$  story, high-victorian styled house of solid stone masonry. House is maintained by a local historical group, as a period furnished house exhibit, open to the public.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

House is well maintained and one of the better historic house operations in the High-Plains/Rockies region. site has been nominated for the National Register, based on its architectural significance.

Transmission Line Impact:

This house stands in an exposed location with a good view. If a transmission line has to pass within two miles of the structure, we would recommend that it pass south of town.

References:

reconnaissance of house, and interview with staff-volunteers.

Cold Springs Ranch:

This was one of the pioneer ranches in the Yellowstone Valley. It served as the headquarters for open-range ranching operations in the late 1870's. For a time it served as a stage station. With the coming of the Northern Pacific Railroad, it developed into a major ranching operation with title to over 15,000 acres of land. Ultimately it became the headquarters for the Rea Sheep Company, and served in this capacity until 1911, when most of the ranch land was sold off in small tracts for dry farming. Today it is the headquarters for a modest ranching and farming operation.

Location: Sec. 9, T. 6 N., R. 40 E.

Description:

The ranch buildings are representative of virtually every period from c. 1880 to the present. There are several large log buildings that date from at least as early as 1880. These structures have all been adapted to various kinds of use by the present owner.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

This site is only about three miles off I-94, and it is conceivable that it might eventually be developed into a historical park by the state or county. This seems unlikely as long as it is a functioning ranch headquarters.

Transmission Line Impact:

The present highway, railway, and smaller transmission lines pass quite close to the property, so a major line here would have but moderate impact. It should be possible to alleviate even this by using existing terrain and vegetation for screening the line from this site.

References: Forsyth Times-Journal files



A.B. Guthrie Home:

This was a boyhood home of the widely known novelist A.B. Guthrie (now of Missoula). Life in the town of Choteau did much to shape the course of Guthrie's work. He is internationally known for his major works of fiction on the American West.

Location: just off Highway 29 at the west edge of the town of Choteau.

Description: two story frame house, nicely maintained and currently occupied.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

House has been nominated for the National Register, and there is the prospect that it will be well preserved. It seems unlikely at this point that it will become a public attraction for some years.

Transmission Line Impact:

This would be moderate in view of the general pattern of community development and change in Choteau.

References:

Guthrie, A.B. The Blue Hen's Chick, 1965.

Rankin Ranch:

This ranch property is associated with the family that produced nationally known politician and suffragette Jeanette Rankin and Montana financier Wellington Rankin.

Location: T. 10 N., R. 1 E. Location is only approximate, based on notes in Montana Fish and Game Commission files.

Description:

Our investigator was unable to reach the property to examine it, due to road conditions.

Transmission Line Impact:

Minimal to moderate. Site needs further study if a line would approach within two miles of the area mapped.

References:

notes in Montana Fish and Game Commission files

Paradise:

A small railroad town from the 1880's

Location: T. 19 N., R. 26 W.

Description:

This is a little railroad town which shows some considerable remains of its historical economic underpinnings. It is further notable for its isolated charm and atmosphere. It has some interesting architecture, such as its school.

Development Potential and Prospect:

As noted above, it has some special points which may call for some consideration. It is a functioning community, and it has its very evident signs of modern growth and improvement. But its historical and specialized reasons for existence are still visible.

Transmission Line Impact:

Visual impact would be at least moderate on a community of this nature. We recommend that the line be kept out of view of this town.

References:

Reconnaissance and interviews with local informants.

Flains:

. This is a railroad town, c. 1880's.

Location: T. 20 N., R. 26 W.

Description:

Attention is called to this little town for reasons similar to Paradise. Its economic foundations are probably only partially related to the railroad,... but more on livestock, lumbering, etc. It, too, has some interesting architecture remaining, and it also has a good amount of "small-town, U.S.A." retained in its atmosphere.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

It might also be wise to consider protecting the countryside along Highway 28 from Flains to the U.S.F.S. "Banana Lake Road", where power lines appear. This initial stretch of road out of Flains is in considerable possession of old ranching structures.

Transmission Line Impact:

Visual impact would be at least moderate on a community of this kind, and for reasons outlined above, we suggest keeping any line out of view of the community.

References:

Reconnaissance and interview with local informants.

Benson's Landing:

This was one of the most popular points for building mackinaw boats with which to float down the Yellowstone to the Missouri and "Back to the States". From the mid 1860's until the early 1880's there was almost always at least one trading post, several saloons and other business establishments at this point. It declined and disappeared rapidly after the railroad selected Livingston as its station and many settlers came into the country here after 1882.

Location: N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 5, T. 2 S., R. 10 E.

Description:

Site is in an area currently developed with sizeable rural residential tracts along old highway 89. No structural evidence remains at site. It is possible that archeology on site would yield a great deal of data on the buildings here that saw much of Montana history and history makers passing by. Site is privately owned.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

Site has some potential for roadside interpretive development. Little more could be done without substantial agency assistance to the owner or change of ownership, which seems improbable from interviews conducted with him.

Transmission Line Impact:

Transmission line impact here is limited to visual impact would be moderate in view of the intensity and nature of surrounding development.

References:

Topping, E.S. (R.A. Murray, ed.). Chronicles of the Yellowstone, Ross and Haines, Minneapolis, 1968.

Also notes in Aubrey Haines Collection, Bozeman, Montana.

Junction City:

As soon as the army selected the site for Terry's Landing (q.v.), civilian merchants selected a site immediately opposite the post on the north bank of the Yellowstone and platted a townsite. Among the merchants here was the notable Paul McCormick, early pioneer on the Yellowstone, and later a substantial merchant in Billings. The town served as a civilian steamboat-landing for goods to be hauled by wagon to points further up the valley. Its saloons, dance-hall and other attractions drew a brisk trade from the soldiers and civilian employees at Terry's Landing. The town lived on for several years after being bypassed by the railroad (which ran south of the river here) since it served as a jumping off place for freighters and mining men for the Maginnis Mines and for some freight destined for Fort Maginnis.

Location: NB  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, T. 5 N., R. 33 E.

Site Description:

Site is presently inaccessible to conventional vehicles. It is located in an attractive setting between the foot of the bluffs and the river. Only foundations and cellars mark the site. Site is in private ownership.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

We would have to rate the prospect for actual development here as low, in view of the difficult access. It has some attractiveness as a recreation site.

Transmission Line Impact:

This site is at the upper end of a historic zone along the Yellowstone around the mouth of the Big Horn that we believe should be avoided by a major transmission line.

References:

Topping, E.S. (R.A. Murray, ed.). Chronicles of the Yellowstone, Ross and Haines, Minneapolis, 1968.

Davis-Hauser-Stuart Ranch:

. Headquarters locale for one of the major central Montana open range cattle operations, c. 1880-1887.

Location: Location given is only an approximation. In the weather and road conditions available during our project, we were unable to locate any physical evidence of the ranch, but could not make an off-the road search in detail for it.

Development Potential and Prospect:

These cannot be properly assessed without an actual site reconnaissance or equivalent information on site condition. We have no data leading us to believe there are any surviving structures or ruins, and doubt that there is much potential.

Transmission Line Impact: Probably minimal.

References:

Stuart, Granville. Forty Years on the Frontier, ed. by Paul C. Phillips, The Arthur H. Clark Co., Glendale, California, 1967.

Ophir Landing:

• This steamboat landing was occupied but briefly by its developers in 1865 until they were all killed by the Blackfeet.

Location: Sec. 18, T. 25 N., R. 10 E.

Description:

No structural remains at this site. Natural setting is well preserved.

Potential and Prospect for Development:

This site has limited potential, probably streamside interpretation for boaters would be the maximum level of development here.

Transmission Line Impact:

Upon the site itself, line impact would be minimal, but along with the rest of this stretch of river between Fort Benton and Fred Robinson Bridge, we feel that such intrusions should be kept out of the area along the river, or crossings of the river effected with minimum linear disturbance along it.

References:

Chittenden, Hiram. Early Steamboat Navigation on the Missouri River, New York, 1903.



Sites in the Cities

. All of the major cities in the study area possess at least a few historic sites and buildings. Helena has the largest number, in and peripheral to its historic district. Butte, Great Falls, Anaconda, Bozeman and Lewistown all possess important historic buildings. As we indicated in our introduction, we have not treated these locales in depth because of the number of total factors of other kinds that make it undesirable from both environmental and economic considerations to bring a really major line into one of these cities.

### The Proposed Mining Area at Colstrip

We have examined the proposed mining area at Colstrip for any significant historic resources. By and large we find that until the opening of the coal-mining at the old Colstrip mine in the 1920's, most of the activity that could be termed "historic" has bypassed the areas with stripable coal.

Within the limits of the special large-scale study map we have found one pre-settlement site that is of special interest. This is the site of the first major fight involving the Yellowstone Wagon Road and Prospecting Expedition (see special section on sites related to this expedition, above). They had an all-day fight on March 25, 1876 on a site immediately adjacent the "Lee" Cemetery.

This fight site is still identifiable on the ground.

It has considerable potential for interpretive development if the landowner were interested in something of this kind. It could easily be developed with durable exhibits and a self-guiding trail, and might be quite an attraction in view of the expansion of population in the area.

The Colstrip mine itself is perhaps the major historic development of the region, but of course, like most successful mining operations, the new developments are absorbing or overrunning much of the old here. It might be appropriate for the Company to do a roadside interpretive feature on the history of the older part of the mine and an explanation of the current reclamation effort.

Rosebud County really first began to attract homesteaders in meaningful numbers in the spring of 1911. Most of these took up potentially irrigable lands on the Yellowstone River bottoms, and the best of dry-farm lands on the adjacent benches. The opening of the great Cold Spring Ranch for sale to farming settlers that year drew off many of the potential settlers who might have moved up Armell's Creek.

Our analysis of the land records on the tracts involved and our research in the Forsyth Times-Journal, (obtained on microfilm from Montana Historical Society), pinpoint the prime years of homesteader activity as 1916 to 1922. The rush of such homesteaders came to this

marginal country (in terms of half-section farms) on the strength of the high prices occasioned by World War I, and the relatively wet years that coincided with the years of high prices.

By 1921, world wheat and beef and mutton and wool prices had dropped below pre-war levels, in real money. Soon a major drought visited the area. These two events led to an exodus of most of the marginal/submarginal farmers and a consolidation of ranch/farm holdings in the area.

Most of the current ranching operations in the area date from this consolidation, though of course some of these have changed hands.

None of the properties we have examined have been associated with locally, regionally or nationally important figures.

The abandoned homestead structures here, as well as those from the period that have been incorporated into currently operational ranches are not distinctive architecturally from literally hundreds of structures from the same period that survive on the farms and ranches of the Yellowstone Valley not far away.

The study done by Joann Stephen as an adjunct to the Western Energy archeological study is an example of the ultimate maximum of further work required by the buildings we found on the "Tract F" of the study area.

At Castle Rock there was a country post office during the years 1910-1926. A check of voter registrations for the school districts involved reveals generally 4 or 5 registered voters, meaning probably that many settlers for the 1912 elections. Castle Rock was abandoned as a post office in 1926, but the buildings continued as sheds on the ranch now there with its still more recent log and frame structures.

This area is representative of the far fringe of the farming frontier's margins. We do not believe any of the structures here possess historic significance, individually or collectively.

A list of homestead patent dates for known occupied tracts follows. Generally a patent date is about 3 years

later than a first entry date (the date of the actual settlement).

West  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 24, T. 2 N., R. 42 E. April 7, 1926, John Hay.

S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 6, T. 1 N., R. 41 E. Lee S. Kimball, December 12, 1916.

West  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 2, T. 1 N., R. 40 E. and the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  plus lots 1,2,3,4, James W. Milar 10 February 1921.

SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , also James W. Milar. 21 November 1921.

NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 32, T. 2 N., R. 40 E. George H. Baughman, January 16, 1919.

NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 6, T. 1 N., R. 40 E. (Castle Rock) the patent on this tract has never been recorded with the county.

NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 34, T. 2 N., R. 29 E., and the E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 34 to Floyd P. Herald July 6, 1915.

The balance of Sec. 34, T. 2 N., R. 39 E. to F.A. Hyde and Co., April 14, 1922.

NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 24, T. 2 N., R. 38 E. Floyd E. Dowlin, 3 September 1915.

NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 12, T. 2 N., R. 38 E., to Samuel A. Pope on March 29, 1915.